

## TEZE DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

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| <b>Semestr:</b><br>letní   |
| <b>Akademický rok:</b><br>2016/2017 (this document was changed on April 24th, 2017)  |
| <b>Název práce:</b><br>Rational Irrationality in the USA   |
| <b>Předpokládaný termín ukončení (semestr, školní rok):</b><br>letní semestr 2016/2017   |
| <b>Vedoucí diplomového semináře:</b><br>PhDr. Jan Bečka, Ph.D.   |
| <b>Vedoucí práce:</b><br>PhDr. Mgr. et Mgr. Kryštof Kozák, Ph. D.  |
| <b>V čem se oproti původními zadání změnil cíl práce?</b><br>After detailed research and consultations with scholars in this particular field of study, the topic was further narrowed, specified and the main thesis was restructuralized and the title was changed. The new approach to the problem elaborates on the thesis claiming that there is a wide incoherence of beliefs between scientific community and the American general public towards global warming (used as a representative case of many other similar global issues). A thorough exploration of the root causes of this problem is highly useful for the society's ability to grow more steadily by rationalizing the decision making of its members. Applying causal analysis, three questions will be answered: "Is it instrumentally rational for people to be indifferent towards climate change?", "Are Americans inherently more likely than others to hold irrational beliefs about global issues such as climate change?" And if so, "Is this phenomenon rooted in the values that the American identity seems to be constituted of?" |
| <b>Jaké změny nastaly v časovém, teritoriálním a věcném vymezení tématu?</b><br>Territorial focus remained on the USA while the timeframe was narrowed to the contemporary behavior and decision-making of the U.S. citizens and thematic focus was directed towards the search for correlation and causality between the exhibited/proclaimed social values and behavior. Arguing for a positive answer to all three questions stated above, I will focus on five specific "American values" and use recent statistical data and empirical studies to find correlations and causality between the values and the exhibited behavior of individuals, while discussing its possible causes and implications. The thesis claims, that the root cause of the irresponsibility of American public and political representation towards climate change is a lack of social reward mechanisms for holding epistemologically accurate beliefs in the USA.   |
| <b>Jak se proměnila struktura práce (vyjádřete stručným obsahem)?</b><br>Some thematic chapters were repositioned in order to follow more logical progress. In the first chapter, the methods of rationality, biases of decision making, cognitive errors and types of rationality will be explained. In the second chapter, Rational Irrationality, this academic concept will be explained and, in regards to other similar concepts designed to study rationality, it will be assessed why this is the most accurate theory to be applied to the topic of climate change. In the third chapter, previous findings will be applied to the perception of climate change existence and urgency in the USA, particularly. In the fourth chapter, the correlation between these exhibited beliefs (and the consequent behavior patterns) and "American values" will be explored. In the end, concrete proposals how to raise epistemic rationality in the USA will be proposed and prioritized, based on all the previous findings.  |

**Jakým vývojem prošla metodologická koncepce práce?**

In the process of specifying the thesis, particular sociological, psychological and political theories to be used in the study were found. Those were, for example, the theories of decision-making, belief, behavioral and cognitive biases, Strategic Irrationality, Bounded and Flexibly Bounded Rationality, Theory of Decision Making in Situation of Strong Uncertainty or the theories of rationality in politics such as Social Learning Theory & Social Presence Theory. Methodology was further specified to follow the aspects of regressions analysis and following synthesis of the new findings and their implications in real life. In the conclusion, I will propose a set of general measures to be prioritized in order to improve social reward mechanisms in the American society which, if implemented, should be able to effectively enforce epistemic rationality in the U.S political debate, which is desirable especially in the contemporary, so called “post-factual” era of Donald Trump’s presidency.

**Které nové prameny a sekundární literatura byly zpracovány a jak tato skutečnost ovlivnila celek práce?**

New influential sources that were discovered are academic studies, books and online journal articles, most notably Bryan Caplan’s “Rational Ignorance Versus Rational Irrationality”, “The Formation Of American Exceptional Ideas” by Taesuh Cha, Stephan Lewandowski’s study “Rational Irrationality: Modeling Climate Change Belief Polarization Using Bayesian Networks, Matthew Humphrey’s “Rational Irrationality and the ‘Paradox’ of Climate Change”, “The American Paradox“ by Dale Jamieson, the study by Andreas Kyriacou “Rational Irrationality and Group Size”, "Elements of Reason" by Arthur Lupia, Matthew D. Cubbins and Samuel L. Popkin from University of California, "Social Networks: Rational Learning and Informational Aggregation" written by Ilan Lobel and "Crony Beliefs" by Kevin Simmler.

**Charakterizujte základní proměny práce v době od zadání projektu do odevzdání tezí a pokuste se vyhodnotit, jaký pokrok na práci jste během semestru zaznamenali (v bodech):**

Thesis of the paper was notably changed, specified and narrowed even though the original purpose of the work did not differentiated in it’s meaning. The framework in which I will conduct the research has been more clearly set and during the seminar discussions, many valuable ideas and proposals were presented to me. I am confident that within this discourse and with more specifically developed aims of the paper presented above, the thesis will be plausible to be reasonably proven or rejected and the outcomes of the research, while put into the larger perspective, can have worthy implications for the advancement of rationality in the U.S. public debate and positive over-spill effects on our ability to tackle global problems in general.

**Podpis studenta a datum:**

| <b>Schváleno:</b>                   | <b>Datum</b> | <b>Podpis</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Vedoucí práce</b>                |              |               |
| <b>Vedoucí diplomového semináře</b> |              |               |