



Ústav světových dějin FFUK

Master's Thesis Review

Student's name and surname: Margot Creach

Title of the thesis: **Le quartier comme expression de l'Histoire juive :
Les visites guidées au sein du Marais, Paris, Budapest, Prague 2017, 85 p.**

Reviewer's name and surname: Luďa Klusáková

1. Heuristic (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

1.1 Evaluation of the selection of literature and sources	C
1.2 Complexity of used sources from the perspective of the state of the art	C

Short evaluation:

Heuristic is not sufficient to grasp the role of Jews in European cities in complexity.

2. Research problem and its solution (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

2.1 Choice of the formulation of the research issue respects the task given to the student	A
2.2 The relevance of the goal from the perspective of research area methodology	A



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Short evaluation:

The research question is relevant and it is worth of research.

3. Thesis' structure evaluation (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

3.1 Is the structure of the thesis logical?	A
3.2 Does the thesis' structure work along the methodology and methods declared in the introduction	A

Short evaluation:

The student follows what she has announced she will do correctly.

4. Quality of analysis and interpretation (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

4.1 Analysis of sources and literature	C
4.2 Interpretation of sources and literature in their interaction	C

Short evaluation:

There are two aspects – the contextualisation which is limited to the chosen background, which does not permit the author to understand fully the historical role of Jews in European cities since middle ages and the fact that they were mainly in cities and towns, and much less in villages. As she was not impressed by Jewish town in Prague and Jewish UNESCO heritage in Czech Republic, the comparison Budapest – Paris gives her distorted image. There were districts created by Jews and inhabited by them since early stages of urban development and districts like Marais where they come into the environment with already created urban structure and history. She does not realise that the reconstruction and revitalisation of Jewish heritage is often done in absence of Jews themselves. The Jewish restaurants, music, festivals etc. re-surrecting the nearly forgotten culture – this initiative comes from elite informed about past.



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5. Quality of the text (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

5.1 Style and grammar	A -
5.2 Use of terminology	A

Short evaluation:

The thesis is well written, only few typos (as f.e. Le France on p. 14), the use of terminology is appropriate.

6. Synthetic evaluation (minimum 500 signs):

The thesis deals with an issue which stems out of contemporary fascination with heritage which can be appreciated and appropriated through travel experience, since tourism has become a good of truly mass consumption. The author also found the topic thanks to this experience being a migrating student, experiencing Budapest and finding out about its Jewish district. The author has not been impressed by the traces of presence of Jews in Central European towns since Middle Ages, did not read the general histories of Jews in Europe and does not realize that their presence has to be acknowledged since Middle Ages. It would have given her better understanding of the issue. That is for the contextualization.

The positive experience is with ethnographic observation and making her own sources through interviews which are correctly presented. In the interpretation it might have been fruitful to acknowledge the peripathetic aspect - the author is being carried through the districts in a tour, the guides are giving a tour, and what is seen is along the path of the tour. Second aspect is the visuality, the tourist gaze – these are the perspectives discussed very much by sociologists of tourism like John Urry. Their approach might have helped the author to realize what is her own position in this exercise, trying to get the distance, but at the same time being the object of indoctrination.



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7. Questions and comments which should the candidate answer and discuss during the defence: Have you spotted intentional collaboration between academia and the guides on the development of the contents of tours? Or program of compulsory or facultative guide training? Do you realize that your research issue is a process, still changing? Now f.e. the trendy events in cities “to experience the city in another way” involving many actors in presentation and interpretation of the city on one occasion. Do you think their impact is ephemeral, or can be even lasting?

Suggested grade: Margot has made a remarkable progress in her thesis since the beginning of her work. Despite my critical comments, I propose to evaluate this progress and grade her thesis as “Good” – 13/20 in French grading system, C in ECTS, 3 in Hungarian and Czech System.

Signature: Lud'a Klusáková

Date: 13.9.2017