

**OPPONENT'S REPORT  
BA THESIS**

**The Political Aspect of Literature: Criticism of a (Neo)conservative Community  
Karolína Kašparová**

The present thesis is a clear, focused and straightforwardly delivered text centered on Ira Levin's *The Stepford Wives* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. In addition to offering criticism of the two novels, the thesis includes a theoretical introduction that briefly discusses the notion of community, totalitarianism and the politics of literature. The fourth chapter then analyzes film adaptations of the two aforementioned novels.

On the whole, this is an accomplished BA thesis with only a few stylistic and linguistic errors (e.g., “which does not necessary have to be read” [23], “what is conveys” [24], “clean both literary and metaphorically” [24], “de Bouvoir” [29], “cannot be bend by affection” [32], “the newly build communities” [58], etc.). Also, Stepford is not a “‘traditional’ utopia” (26) – it is a dystopia.

As I find myself for the most part in agreement with the arguments of the thesis, I have only two questions for the defense:

- 1) It is argued that “the interpretations of any novel change over time, which means that there cannot be any inherent and permanent (political) interpretation of a novel—it all depends on the 'audience' and the historical context” (12). Isn't this exaggerated?
- 2) The thesis rests on the binary “individual” – “community” but the “communities” discussed in the thesis demonstrate what is earlier viewed here as the “transfer to totalitarianism” (14). The way this “becoming totalitarian” (14) is presented in the thesis makes it seem that there is no viable alternative to individualism: is this Ms. Kašparová's perspective?

Proposed grade: 1 (výborně)

Pavla Veselá, PhD.  
May 31, 2018