



**FACULTY  
OF HUMANITIES**  
Charles University

**Evaluation of the master thesis *Gender, Ethnicity and Peacebuilding in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict* by Ramil Zamanov**

Ramil Zamanov has picked an interesting and unusual topic, a rare choice in academic writing. He is clearly very enthusiastic about it and he used this passion when writing his master thesis, which I appreciate. Moreover, I commend his ability to keep a distance in such an intense and kind of personal topic. He chose appropriate research methods and proved his ability to use them. The fact he managed to apply the method correctly shows that he is an experienced researcher.

My role as an opponent requires me to be critical. Therefore, I am offering some comments that I address to the author to provide critical feedback. That being said, my remarks are not meant to lower the overall value of this work as they are mainly concerned with details.

Ramil's description of the theories is rather brief and the thesis would also benefit from a wider theoretical field. From the beginning, he analyzes concepts of gender, ethnicity, peacebuilding and intersectionality from perspectives of social constructivism. He transferred some of the theories to individual chapters dedicated to the effects of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the lives of IDP and refugee women, queer and LGBT experiences in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the rethought peacebuilding in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from an intersectional perspective. Especially the last one, I consider as very successful. Admittedly, with my little previous experience about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, I came to understand this problem quite well after the reading.

The results are presented in a comprehensive and diverse manner, and are seamlessly connected to the theoretical background and research goals. The empirical section is an entity on equally footed with research level study. Almost all areas of the research are of high quality, and it produces new professional and/or scientific information. I would appreciate some extension of the chapter about precarious living conditions, and I suggest using another concept of power ordering of the society. The idea of standard social classes might not be functional in this case.

The research is of good quality, includes interesting new information, and does not have any notable insufficiencies. Some parts would deserve more detailed explanation, for example the mention of sending LGBT/queer soldiers to psychiatric hospitals to be diagnosed with schizophrenia (the author should make more copious endnotes).

In conclusion, I would like to ask Ramil: How exactly is gender connected with the process of peacebuilding in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?

As I mentioned in the beginning, I consider this master thesis very successful and inspiring. Ramil Zamanov has proven himself by his achievements as an outstanding researcher with great interpretation skills and social imagination. His work exceeds the criteria for a standard master thesis.

I recommend grade 1.

Prague, 18<sup>th</sup> June

Iva Baslarová