

## **The review of master thesis of Naila Mukhtarova “Brain drain of Kazakhstan in 1999-2008”**

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The master thesis has 98 pages including 15 tables, 38 figures and annex with English Russian translation of the statistical card records.

The topic of the master thesis is quit actual because international migration is important phenomenon of economic, social, cultural and political situation of particular countries. Especially the issue of brain-drain or brain-gain play important role in the research of the highly skilled people. There was not so much done in this field in Kazakhstan and Naila Mukhtareva is trying to analyze this situation with new data and appropriate theories and concepts concerning brain-drain issue. She was interested in this topic already in her bachelor thesis and the experience enlarged in her master thesis.

The purpose and objectives of the thesis are clear including of its structure. An overview of “world” and Kazakh’s literature is in the chapter two, including description of relevant data. The theoretical concepts and terminology is described in chapter three. The principal part of the thesis is chapter four, where is author analyzing the migration situation in Kazakhstan, especially the brain drain process. The main findings and policy recommendations are in conclusion.

The work as a whole seems to be satisfactory but beside this I have following objections:

1. The thesis is mainly descriptive and the author uses simple quantitative methods of the migration processes. The author unfortunately did not use more sophisticated statistical analyses than description of shares or rates.
2. There are too many figures and tables and the reader sometimes loosing in the text with a lot of statistical information and insufficient comments.
3. There are some formal mistakes and also English formulation is not every time clear.
4. There was not unfortunately possibility to make her own survey which should definitely enrich the thesis.

Even if I have some objections I think that Naila Mukhtarova fulfilled all the necessary requirements for master theses and thus I recommend the Thesis for defence.

At the end I would like to give the author a question, which should be answered at the defence:

“Does Kazakhstan experienced by the brain gain process? If yes could you specify from which countries immigrants originate and what is their profession?”

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