

Ústav světových dějin

Master's Thesis Review

Student's name and surname: **Muhammet Sami Bayram**

Title of the thesis:

Transformation of Pera into the Cultural District of Istanbul in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century, Prague 2016, 97 p. (90 p. text, 7 pages bibliography)

Reviewer's name and surname: **Prof. PhDr. Lud'a Klusáková, Tutor of the candidate**

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

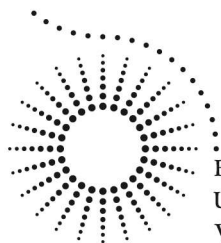
1.1 Evaluation of the selection of literature and sources	2
1.2 Complexity of used sources from the perspective of the state of the art	2

Short evaluation:

The modernisation of Ottoman Capital Istanbul in course of the second half of the 19th century is a very strong issue in Turkish urban history. The selection of the literature results out of search, which was evolving along with the theme of interest. It is not a complex survey rendering the state of the art. To work with complete set of sources was not possible because the student had no previous knowledge of the studied topic and because of the limited time. For the second submission the thesis was not considerably reworked, it has been corrected, and it is now convincing, that the sources used are sufficient for an MA thesis.

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 formulate critical points)

2.1 Choice of the formulation of the research issue respects the task given to the student	1
2.2 The relevance of the goal from the perspective of research area	1



Ústav světových dějin

methodology	
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Short evaluation:

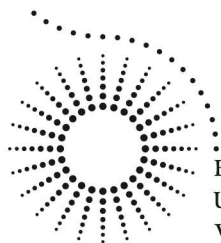
The theme of the research evolved gradually to the final formulation of the task: The elements of modernisation of Pera as a district with very particular character with particular focus on theatre buildings. The cafés, arcades, photography shops, and infrastructure (particularly illumination) were added as the author discovered their importance. The elements which link the infrastructure and social life are well chosen, Landry's concept of creative city and Montgomery's concept of Cultural district, and McKay's formulation of the role of belonging in the city are relevant and applicable. The pillar concepts used in the work – multiculturalism, cultural district, cosmopolitanism are appropriately chosen.

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

3.1 Is the structure of the thesis logical?	2
3.2 Does the thesis' structure work along the methodology and methods declared in the introduction	2

Short evaluation:

The thesis is divided into five parts and the structure is logical. All the innovations discussed in the thesis are high cost and risky for investors. Was it chronology of their appearance, the costs or risks of such innovation, or their impact, which were key argument for the structuring of the thesis could be better explained.



Ústav světových dějin

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 formulate critical points)

4.1 Analysis of sources and literature	3
4.2 Interpretation of sources and literature in their interaction	3

Short evaluation:

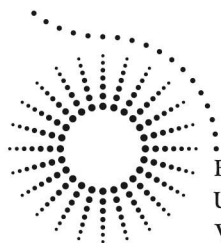
The author has based his research on the reading of collection of reports on Pera from various sources – textual and pictorial – literary and scholarly publications, periodical press, posters, postcards, and maps. While there is an effort to integrate the visual sources into the text, the maps could be better integrated and interpreted. Sami Bayram is convinced about the unique influence of multiculturalism on the spatial organisation and contents of social life in Pera. He announces inspiration in McKay's formulation of the role of belonging in the city. He uses it in sense of cohabitation and communication among people of different ethnicities and religions and establishing relationship towards the place. McKay together with Landry and Montgomery is a useful combination of approaches, however they should have been applied through the text individually, and all three in interaction. In the conclusion only Landry is applied. Montgomery is not used explicitly in the text, although I know that the student was working with his text and is acknowledging him in the bibliography.

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

5.1 Style and grammar	3
5.2 Use of terminology	2

Short evaluation:

Sami Bayram has made enormous progress in writing in English, The text is comprehensible, it almost reads well. However, the second submission has more linguistic errors than the first had. The text would benefit from more editorial care. The footnoting format has been



Ústav světových dějin

corrected, the bibliography and list of sources have obtained standard format. In overall the text has improved.

The author knows the terminology, but he does not sufficiently make difference between the concepts in the analysis. Multiculturalism, multiethnicity, cosmopolitanism are concepts which cannot be used as synonym. Creativity of the City is being used as if the City was the actor in person, not the individuals, who were active agents in the process of introduction of all the types of innovations which were studied in the thesis.

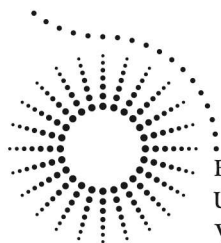
6. Synthetic evaluation (500 signs):

The MA thesis presented by M. Sami Bayram shows that the author has revised the text after the first submission, and improved it. There still remains certain gap in analytical reading of sources. Certain distance from the topic in which the student is very much involved would be desirable. The modernisation of Pera is treated as a very positive trend, however, we may assume that it was not always accepted by the Moslem society as positive. They might have felt that at least some of those innovations, if not all are immoral. Therefore it was necessary to convince the society beyond Perali that it is not so, to facilitate the continuation of the proces. To invite people from other parts of Istanbul, men and also women, to visit the theatres and other places in Pera. This aspect is present in between lines (f.e. p.21), and there where the author explains the attitude of official authorities, the course of administrative reorganization of the city. The topic is potentially very rich and offering various possibilities for its development.

The thesis fulfils the requirements, and it can be accepted for the defence,

7. Questions and comments which should the candidate answer and discuss during the defense:

According to dictionaries „Cosmopolitan is supposed to be one that feels at home in more countries, or worldwide; who does not feel loyalty to one particular state” – do you think that this definition fits on the inhabitants of Pera? Who among Perali was true cosmopolitan? Landry identifies the actors of creativity and its criteria and is mapping creativity. Can you specify how you have applied his method on Pera?



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Ústav světových dějin

Suggested grade: Between Very Good and Good (2 – 3)

Date: 5th of September 2016

Signature: