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Ústav světových dějin FFUK

## Master's Thesis Review

Student's name and surname: Anna Pestova

Title of the thesis: Uzupis (Vilnius) and Kalamaja (Tallinn): Cultural quarters and the post-Soviet urban space transformation in Baltic states

Reviewer's name and surname: Linda Kovářová, Ph.D.

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**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	1.5
1.2 Complexity of used sources from the perspective of the state of the art	2

Short evaluation:

Wide variety of sources is used including secondary literature, internet articles, guidebooks, fiction or interviews. The author works with Lithuanian, Estonian, Russian and English sources. All together it gives the thesis a nice source complexity. The set of interviews misses clear categorization of respondents and reference to the bibliography part. The low number of interviewees makes it impossible to make it a representative sample for designed distinction of actor's views in the thesis. Since the thesis deals with the topic of creative class, literature regarding such issues is missing.

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**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	1
2.2 The relevance of the goal from the perspective of research area methodology	2



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Short evaluation:

The research issue is clearly formulated and methodologically it rests on the theory of gentrification of urban districts. This part could have been elaborated to a wider extent and could have been more integrated into the practical part of the analysis of the individual case studies.

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**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?	1
3.2 Does the thesis' structure work along the methodology and methods declared in the introduction	2

Short evaluation:

The structure of the thesis is logical producing two case studies which are then compared. The case studies part is rather descriptive and misses application of declared methodological statements.

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**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	2.5
4.2 Interpretation of sources and literature in their interaction	2.5

Short evaluation:

As a whole the thesis tends to be rather descriptive and is limited in terms of sufficient interpretation based on thorough analysis.



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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	3
5.2 Use of terminology	1

Short evaluation:

Author's English is understandable but for academic writing it is not sufficient and proofreading is necessary. The text has got many formatting errors, some figures are missing or are not legible and the spelling and grammar mistakes are frequent. Overall, the graphical form needs to be handled more thoroughly.

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**6. Synthetic evaluation (minimum 500 signs):**

The thesis brings a very interesting present-day theme. A great benefit of the thesis is that it introduces the topic on the examples of two sites that have not been researched yet much. The applied comparative and interdisciplinary approach seems very enriching. Though deeper reflection of methodological and theoretical aspects is deserved as well as the formal presentation of the study as mentioned above.

I suggest the very good grade.

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

How did the UNESCO inscription influence the gentrification process in both Kalamaja and Užupis? How was the UNESCO World Heritage status accepted by different local agents, such as local inhabitants, heritage bodies or municipality?



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What was the role of EU (through the funding) on the development of Art Inkubator project in Užurpis and the Culture Hub project in Kalamaja?

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**Suggested grade: Very good**

**Date: 5 September 2017**

**Signature:**