

Supervisor's references

Author's name: Gabriela Elisa Henz Hammes

Title: Analysis of Czech Diplomatic Career: How Do Czech Women Diplomats Perceive Themselves Inside the Czech Diplomatic Environment

In her master's theses, Gabriela Elisa Henz Hammes research Czech Women diplomats' perceptions regarding being a woman in diplomacy. The author wants to answer following research question: "How do Czech women diplomats perceive their positions in the Czech diplomatic career? and a sub-question: "Which kinds of diplomatic subjects (hard or soft) do women work with regarding the Czech diplomatic structure?" (p. 2). First the author introduces the international relations feminist theory and continues with methodology and data. In the analytical part, the author first provides the reader with the overview the context of Czech diplomacy, then she presents the findings regarding the perceptions of Czech women diplomats. Finally, the author concludes with summarizing her findings.

Czech diplomacy is not often discussed in relation to international relations feminist theory as well as not researched in relation to gender questions. Considering this, the topic is original and relevant. Regarding the thesis I have one comment related to methodology. The author states that she is interested in understanding how Czech women diplomats perceive themselves. In relation to international relations feminist theory, the author wants to find out what it means to be a woman in a rather male environment. From the very beginning the reader is guided to approach/read the thesis as an interpretive study, in a way related to analysing the discourse they use (although the author does not state this). The thing is, that the methodology section talks about "understanding" (p. 18) and at the same as "a theme for the construction for the hypothesis.... (p. 18). This opens a question whether the author conducts an interpretive study or a qualitative theory building study. Based on the analytical part, the reader comes to the third genre of the work, which is theory application. This is a bit confusing. One start reading the thesis as interpretive study and ends with a study that is theory application. Both research designs have different implications, and both are ok, but the genre and the logic of the research must be clear from the very beginning.

To sum it up, the thesis surpasses the usual standards set by the Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts of the Czech Republic for bachelor theses. I recommend the thesis for defence and suggest a grade C.

Date:

Signature: