

Supervisor's references

Author's name: Alexia Klie Tojal De Almeida

Title: The development of the Women Rights local group, the proFem case, during the Czech Republic process of ascension to the EU

In her bachelor's theses, Alexia Klie Tojal De Almeida analysis the impact of the ascension process into the European Union (EU) in the Czech Republic's local women activist groups. In particular she focuses on proFem as one of the most significant women rights social movements. The author wants to answer following research question: How did the process of accession to the EU influence proFem's discourse, and therefore Women's Rights' discourse in the Czech Republic? First, Alexia Klie Tojal De Almeida introduces the reader into the context of Czech women rights question in the Czech Republic, then presents theoretical framework, methodology and data. The analysis is presented via discussing three various time periods which cover proFem's discourse for 15 years including time periods before and after the accession. Finally, the core findings are discussed regarding the theoretical framework.

Both Europeanization and women rights are topics widely discussed within political science or sociology. However, Europeanization is rather discussed in relation to political parties and women rights in relation to social movements. Alexia Klie Tojal De Almeida's text works with both concepts, as e.g., Ondřej Císař and Kateřina Vráblíková (2010) do, but the significant contribution of her text is that she applies Europeanization to the discourse of Czech women rights social movements. Thus, she contributes to public debate on the "import of the women rights into Czech Republic" as well as to academic debate which has been focused on "hard data" (e.g., funding) rather than on the way how Czech women rights social movements talk about women rights (thus understand them, thus defend them). To sum it up the topic is relevant and well justified. This applies to the overall structure of the thesis as well to the research question, methodology and method applied. Alexia Klie Tojal De Almeida clearly defines what research problem she addresses and how she comes to her findings, including conscientious justification of the case and method selection. The method of analysis is applied adequately. What needs to be appreciated is that the author often accompanies her findings with the context/background information. This is especially important for any interpretivist research, while still quite demanding for undergraduate students. I also appreciate the conclusion as it is not just the summary of the findings, but a comprehensive discussion of the results. However, I suggest having it as a chapter which is part of the analytic section rather than the conclusion chapter. Nevertheless, having it as a conclusion chapter doesn't affect the high quality of the text.

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 A.

Date:

Signature: