

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2019/2020**

Master Thesis Topic: **The Phenomenon of Euroscepticism – A Comparative Analysis of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic**

Author's name: **Henner Brandes**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Jeremy Alan Garlick, M.A., Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Mgr. Ing. Kateřina Kočí, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	2
2.	Logical structure	1
3.	Using of literature, citations	2
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	1
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	1
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

The master thesis deals with the issue of Euroscepticism using a comparative analysis of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic. The topic itself has been reflected in many academic publications, but the proposed design of the research offers an interesting view of the much-discussed issue. The author introduces a solid theoretical background which defines various aspects of Euroscepticism and thus prepares the ground for its own research. My main remarks are two-folded. First, the selected topic belongs primarily among the issues studied in political sciences, its relevance for international studies is not justified much in the thesis. Second, the theoretical context which enables the author to choose several typologies of Euroscepticism and its roots and origins are well explained. However, the identified goals on one hand, and the proposed methodology that not only focuses on the analysis of Euroscepticism in the respective countries but also on the practices of two chosen political parties do not seem to fit entirely together. It rather seems to be two separate case studies. One case study that focuses on the overall environment in Germany and the Czech Republic, and the second one which concentrates on the two Eurosceptic parties and their practices. Moreover, the justification for the selection of these two political parties is also unclear. I believe, for instance, that it is rather difficult to generalize the outcomes of the analysis of the ODS to the whole society. According to the last election results the party attracted only 11,3 % of voters and it was even less in previous elections. Therefore, it is relevant to ask whether such a sample is really representative. As the author also pointed out in the thesis, there are other parties with very different views on the Union in the Czech Republic. This inconsistency between the goals (and research question) of the thesis and the design of the research may be overcome with the inclusion of sub-goals into the text. On the other hand, I appreciate the depth of the author's own analysis, as well as the numerous sources that are used in the empirical part. The overall structure of the thesis is also logical. The formal arrangements, the language and stylistics are of a high-quality level. I thus recommend the thesis for defence. My question for defence is: What period of time has been the primary focus and why? How does the Eurosceptic discourse of the ODS and AfD has been influenced by both internal EU crisis (migration and Eurozone crisis)?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 17/05/2020

Mgr. Ing. Kateřina Kočí, Ph.D.
Opponent