

Statement of the Supervisor on the Doctoral Studies and Dissertation of Daniel Šitera

Vyjádření školitele

Europeanization and the State in Central and Eastern Europe: Political Economy of European Structural Funds

submitted for defense under the cotutelle agreement between the University of Leipzig and Charles University Prague in 2021.

Evaluation of Doctoral Studies

Daniel Šitera (born on February 27, 1987 in Domažlice) prepared his dissertation in the frame of a cotutelle agreement between the University of Leipzig and the Charles University Prague. Mr. Šitera was member the Graduate School Global and Area Studies (GSGAS) in Leipzig between October 2014 and March 2020. The attached Transcript of Records gives an overview of courses he attended and the credit points resp. grades he received.

The program of the GSGAS consists of research seminars, colloquia, and working groups. Several times Mr. Šitera presented the concept of his doctoral thesis and parts of his manuscript at the Summer schools and Winter schools. Part of the doctoral studies in Leipzig are the Thesis Advisory Committees. Mr. Šitera had four times the opportunity and the duty to inform the professors and lecturers of the Graduate school at these committees about the progress of his work and to find solutions to overcome problems hindering a timely completion. In 2016, the GSGAS provided Mr. Šitera a travel grant to attend a conference in Atlanta (USA). A research stipend in 2018 enabled him to stay at the Willy-Brandt Zentrum in Wrocław for two months.

Evaluation of the Dissertation

The progress of the work has been consulted with me regularly. I was present several times when Daniel Šitera presented his work at the Summer and Winter Schools organized by the Leipzig Graduate School. Moreover Prof. Pavel Barša and I had joint consultations with the doctoral student in Prague and while Pavel Barša was guest of the GWZO in Leipzig.

The dissertation is devoted to a crucial period in contemporary European history: the enlargement of the European Union towards East Central Europe. The focus lays on the consequences of the EU Cohesion policy for the Visegrád countries (i.e. the so called V4 states consisting of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic). The author's aim is to investigate how the structural and investment funds of the EU effected the transformation of "the state" in the V4 region during the decade after 2004.

Šitera takes the official start of Cohesion Policy in 1988, when the existing funds of European Communities' Regional Policy were merged under one institutional umbrella as the point of departure of this investigation. This situation was challenged shortly after by the collapse of state socialism in Eastern Europa. Unlike the unification of the two German states, which Šitera rightly interprets as the "*de facto* first eastern enlargement" of the EU, the rest of post-socialist economies became a core 'opportunity' for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Šitera investigates what he calls the "Visegrád model of capitalism," departing from a critical perspective on Comparative Capitalisms Methodology with its strong emphasis on Foreign Direct Investments(FDI) and from the observation of a lack of critical economy scholarship on the Cohesion Policy towards East Central Europe. The author identifies a "dual dependency"

among the V4 states after the EU accession (from FDI and EU funds). To explore this setting, he offers the concept of “Transnational Regulation of Peripheral Development (TRPD).” It is beyond my competency (being a historian) to assess what contribution the author’s “theoretization of the Cohesion Policy as TRPD” brings to international scholarship on political economy.

With respect to contemporary global history, Šitera’s reflections of what he calls the „cohesion-competitiveness dilemma” are of interest. How current cohesion policy is challenged by global competitors might be explained during in the defense. I see an innovation potential for historical studies in the author’s method of an inter-scalar comparison. On (a) the EU scale, he analyses the shift in EU core-periphery relations after the Eastern enlargement. On (b) the V4 scale (with a clear focus on the Czech Republic), he tackles the shift from FDI to EU funding. On (c) the subnational scale, he describes the shift from lagging to leading regions exemplified for Brno and the South Moravian region. The results of Šitera’s empirical work can sharpen the awareness for the importance of Cohesion policy and thus provide material for future historical research on the Visegrád Group as a regional cooperation in East Central Europe shaped three decades ago initially as a joint venture become members of the EU and the NATO.

Final Evaluation

I recommend the Doctoral thesis of Daniel Šitera for the final defense.

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We hereby confirm that Mr. **DANIEL ŠITERA**, born on _____ in _____, Czech Republic was a member of the Graduate School Global and Area Studies of the Graduate Centre Humanities and Social Sciences from Oktober 1, 2014 to March 31, 2020 at the Research Academy of Leipzig University and attended the following courses and achieved the following credit points and grades:

| | Type and title of courses | Lecturer(s) | ECTS | Grade |
|-----|---|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | East Central Europe in a Globalizing World, research seminar (SS 2014) | Prof. Dr. Frank Hadler | 4 | |
| 2. | Training on Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, research seminar (SS 2015) | Dr. Thilo Lang | 4 | |
| 3. | Cultural Transfer and World Order, research seminar (SS 2015) | Prof. Matthias Middell/ Prof. Dr. S.Cornelissen | 4 | |
| 6. | Capitalism & Democracy in East-Central Europe, own seminar (SS 2019) | Daniel Šitera | 4 | |
| 7. | Global History and Research on Transnationalization, working group (WS 2014/2015) | Dr. Steffi Marung | 3 | |
| 8. | The new Europe in transnational Perspective, working group (SS 2015) | Prof. Dr. Stefan Troebst | 3 | |
| 9. | The new Europe in transnational Perspective, working group (SS 2017) | Prof. Dr. Frank Hadler | 3 | |
| 10. | The new Europe in transnational Perspective, working group (SS 2018) | Prof. Dr. Frank Hadler | 3 | |
| 11. | Transnational Cultures and Politics, Colloquium (WS 2014/2015) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 3 | |
| 12. | Colloquium of PhD candidates at GSGAS (SS 2015) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 3 | |
| 13. | Colloquium of PhD candidates at GSGAS (SS 2017) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 3 | |
| 14. | Winter school (WS 2014/2015) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 2 | |
| 15. | Repositioning in a Globalizing World Summer School (SS 2015) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 2 | |

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| 16. | Winter school (WS 2015/2016) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 2 | |
| 17. | Summer school (SS 2017) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 2 | |
| 18. | Winter school (WS 2019/2020) | Dr. Martina Keilbach | 2 | |
| 19. | Writing and Publishing Scholarly Articles in English, Key Qualification (WS 2014/2015) | Dr. Martina Keilbach/ Dr. Carrie B. Dohe | 3 | |
| 20. | Getting Published in English-Language Journals, Key Qualification (SS 2015) | Dr. Carrie B. Dohe | 3 | |

Leipzig, 26/03/2021

Prof. Dr. Ulf Engel
Direktor des Graduiertenzentrums

Prof. Dr. Erich Schröger
Leiter der Research Academy