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Rapport du mémoire de M2 Report of the Master's thesis Édition (2019—2021)

Étudiant(e)/Student :

Prénom, Nom / First Name, Family Name : Meiyu Zhai
Titre du mémoire M1 / Title of the Master's thesis : Redéfinir la relation à une époque de patrimoine : le dialogue culturel franco-chinois

Mobilité / Mobility :

Veillez souligner les établissements !/ Please, underline the institutions !

Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Budapest (ELTE)
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales de Paris (EHESS)
Università degli Studi di Catania (UNICT)
Univerzita Karlova, Prague (CUNI)
Université Laval, Québec (UL)

Directeurs de recherche / Supervisors¹ :

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Membres du jury / Jury members:

Jaroslav Ira

Jiří Janáč

¹ Le pré-rapport est écrit par le 2eme directeur (ou par le 2eme et 3eme directeurs) qui ne participe pas à la soutenance et inclut des questions à aborder lors de la soutenance./The pre-report is written by the 2nd supervisor (and in case the 3rd supervisor too), who does not personally take part in the defense and it includes questions to be addressed to the student during the thesis defense.

Évaluation/Evaluation:

Veillez consulter le tableau de conversion ci-dessous !/ Please, consult the grade conversion chart below !

Note dans l'établissement / Grade at the institution: C

Note dans le 2eme établissement (ELTE) / Grade at the 2nd institution (ELTE) : 3

Note TEMA+ / TEMA+ grade: Amply sufficient

Rapport / Report (max. 4500 caractères espaces inclus/max. 4500 characters including spaces) :

Veillez indiquer votre opinion et remarques sur le mémoire M2 !/ Please, indicate your opinion on the Master's thesis !

The MA thesis of Meiyu Zhai is a result of a rather long and painful process of research and writing that was in addition importantly influenced by the pandemic measures, isolation and reliance on one type of sources only.

The exercise contains some laudable parts, such as that of description of museum partnerships that is probably the most mature and well-grounded part of the MA thesis. Also different approaches to cultural heritage are adequately discussed and important terminological debate is addressed when discussing Chinese approaches. Needed detail is also given to the discussion of institutional framework and financing of the heritage preservation.

Discussion about cultural policies is also grounded in different approaches with important references to diverse authors but can be characterized as somehow less balanced. When discussing cultural policies, cultural identity and also cultural studies, it is not fully evident what do all of these have in common and what is the link between them, in particular in relation to the topic of the MA thesis.

Another important shortcoming is the choice of the language that can be characterized as journalistic, in particular in the contextual part, which is together with the introduction probably the weakest part of the MA thesis.

To quote some examples: « Bien qu'il ne soit pas un amoureux de la culture orientale et qu'il ne s'intéresse pas au communisme, de Gaulle est déterminé à rétablir la position de la France en Europe après la Seconde Guerre mondiale et prône le nationalisme. »

In some parts of the MA thesis the student uses generalizations that can be considered as alarming, e.g. : « Les Français ont toujours eu une profonde confiance dans la culture. » or « Chine rouge avait une image très positive en France. »

Besides, even if the position of the president is particularly strong in France, it may be flawed to explain political choices only by the person of the president, e.g. « Contrairement à de Gaulle, le président Chirac connaissait et appréciait la culture orientale. Durant son mandat, il a activement plaidé pour la levée des restrictions sur les ventes d'armes à la Chine et a encouragé les échanges bilatéraux entre la France et la Chine. . »

What is probably the most outrageous is the work of Meiyu Zhai with the secondary literature, in particular in first parts of the MA thesis. There is not any single reference provided in the contextual part. The first reference is given on p. 22.

In this light, shortcomings in formatting and terminology (e.g. “French civilization”) can be considered as much less important but still present.

Give the rather problematic context of the research and writing process as well progress of Meiyu Zhai in different tasks needed for the accomplishing of the MA thesis as well as much less problematic chapters focusing on museum diplomacy and cultural heritage terminology I believe the grade C/3/Amplly sufficient is adequate result.

Questions :

Veuillez indiquer vos questions à abordes lors de la soutenance !/Please, indicate your questions to be addressed to the student during the thesis defense!

When discussing the role of associations and museums in cultural relations between the two countries, is there any place for non-state actors?

10 June 2021



TEMA+ Grade conversion table

ELTE (Hungarian)	EHESS (French)	UNICT (Italian)	CUNI (Czech)	UL (Canadian)	Notes TEMA+
5	16-20 (pas de 19 et 20)	30 (A, Excellent)	A	95-100 (A+, 4,33) 90-94 (A, 4,00) 85-89 (A-, 3,67)	Très bien/Excellent
4	14-15	27-29 (B, Very Good)	B	80-84 (B+, 3,33) 75-79 (B, 3,00) 70-74, B-, 2,67)	Bien/Good
3	12-13	23-26 (C, Good)	C	66-69 (C+, 2,33) 63-65 (C, 2,00) 60-62 (C-, 1,67)	Assez bien/ Amplly sufficient
2	10-11	21-22 (D, Satisfactory) 18-20 (E, Sufficient)	D, E	55-59 (D+, 1,33) 50-54 (D, 1,00)	Passable/ Satisfactory/ Almost sufficient
1	0-9	1-17 (F, FX)	F	49 et moins (E, 0,00)	Insuffisant/ Insuficient