

Faculty of Arts
Charles University
Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

- Mr. Michail Kiristaev
- “Indie Rock Poetry: Arctic Monkeys’ *Whatever People Say I Am, That’s What I’m Not*”
- BA Thesis
- Opponent’s Report

Brief summary of subject: The thesis examines and makes the case for the Northern English band Arctic Monkeys’ *Whatever People Say I Am, That’s What I’m Not* to be as lyrics, literature so-called, and full stop. He justifies his case using the literary-cultural theories of Terry Eagleton, Stanley Fish, and Antony Easthope.

Methodology & structure: The thesis contains an introduction, four principal chapters, and a conclusion. The thesis contains theoretical speculation with pop cultural textual supports for his theoretical contentions.

Achievements: The thesis argues a cogent case for the Arctic Monkeys’s lyrics to be in truth of fact the cultural form of literature par excellence. The wider more capacious stance on the institution of literature that the thesis communicates is to be welcomed and applauded.

Shortcomings: The thesis could have given a bit more historical context for other similar cultural phenomena; or, suggested orientations for research that would build on the work herein accomplished; however, given what the document does accomplish, these are relatively minor matters, and the thesis is to be lauded to a high degree.

Formal features (e.g. language and style, referencing, bibliography, formatting, abstracts): The language of the thesis is outstandingly and unusually good. Other formal matters are solid.

Question(s): Does the candidate himself find any chinks in the armor in his chosen three theorists, and if so what would those be? That is, how would the candidate complicate or problematize some of the theoretical presuppositions of the thesis? For instance, how would the candidate imagine another relation to aesthetic value other than that informed by his chosen theorists, if at all? Secondly, the notion of the countercultural appeals to another experience of the literary; could the candidate expand on this idea of the countercultural with reference to some concrete examples from mass or popular culture or elite culture? What would the countercultural inform as far as another general sensibility and another society may go?

Conclusion: I recommend the thesis for defense, and propose a preliminary grade of 1

Seattle, 23 i 23
doc. Erik S. Roraback,
D.Phil. (Oxon.)

