



FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA Univerzita Karlova

Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

Posudek školitele na doktorskou práci

Supervisor's report on a PhD dissertation

Iva Dodevska: “Europe and its Others: Migrant Integration in Research and Policy”

As an early career researcher within the international PhD programme MOVES, Iva Dodevska has had 3 supervisors. Jean-Christophe Mayer and me have been with her since the very beginning in 2019. Very soon we received the help of the expertise of Bojan Savić as the third supervisor and all progress meetings were also attended by the coordinator from Montpellier, which was the first university at which Iva started her PhD studies. Half-way through her roughly 3 and a half year long PhD programme she arrived in Prague and attended Charles University, Faculty of Arts. All four of us remember how at first Iva struggled to find her way and to choose a good topic as it very soon surfaced that her greatest skills and her heart did not really lie in the analysis of fiction. Her first topic (Constructing the Immigrant Threat in Postcolonial Britain: Securitisation, Racialisation, and the (Re)invention of ‘Britishness’) soon changed to The Integrationist Paradigm: Discourses on Immigrant Integration Across Policy and Research. Neither one of us was happy with this as it did not quite capture what her own research was leading to. Ultimately, Iva arrived at a topic and title that suited her dissertation. After a quest she arrived at her holy grail. She bravely waded through the flood of our comments, suggestions, questions and grew to emerge not only as an ECR but somebody well on the way to a fully mature scholar. Cooperation with Iva was always a pleasure. Holding on to academic principles, she was keen on discussing her work. And not only that: Ms Dodevska used the potential of the MOVES programme to the full, actively seeking conferences and research stays (e.g. a visiting fellowship at Brown University, USA, actively working in committees of IMISCOE, publishing, and also becoming one of the student representatives within MOVES, all this while, for example, struggling with a severe case of Covid-19).



FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA
Univerzita Karlova

Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

Supervising Iva Dodevska was indeed a great pleasure. She was always willing to incorporate our suggestions and, in her turn, came up with the most intriguing solutions to the most intricate problems. As mentioned above, Iva has, over the years, developed into an excellent scholar and I think this is perceptible in her detailed study of a huge amount of primary and secondary sources on what I dare would call the pseudo-concept of “integration” within migration studies. Iva is capable of moving intelligently between social history, social politics, social science, migration studies and discourse analysis. Her dissertation is indeed interdisciplinary (this is one of the proclaimed aims of MOVES), but also displays an acute awareness of the intricacies of contemporary migration studies with its focus on the political abuse of integrationism.

Ms Dodevska is, I believe, also a very good writer. Though sometimes her syntax is rather compound and lengthy, the text reads well and also displays a certain elegance in its articulations, which helps her do critical justice to the complicated ideas she pursues in her account. Her arguments are well-conceived and well-constructed with support wherever necessary. In conclusion, I am convinced that the dissertation constitutes a substantial contribution to the scholarly discussion of migration studies and identity politics. The detailed treatment of her material combined with a synthetic and flexible methodological approach produce a valuable text which deserves (with some minor adjustments and revisions or additions) to be seen in print. The originality and quality of argumentation are on a very high level. Therefore, I recommend the dissertation for defence.

Doporučuji práci k obhajobě.

Prague 5 September 2023

.....

PhDr. Soňa Nováková, CSc. M.A.
supervisor