

## B. A. thesis review

Ana Arakhamia:

**Soap Opera Politics: Displaying Socio-Political Issues in the Georgian TV Series**

***Chemi Tsolis Daqalebi.***

**Prague 2024: Faculty of Humanities, 55 pages.**

The thesis Ana Arakhamia: Soap Opera Politics: Displaying Socio-Political Issues in the Georgian TV Series *Chemi Tsolis Daqalebi* by Ana Arakhamia is a stimulating try to capture social and cultural changes in Georgian society reflected in the TV show *Chemi Tsolis Daqalebi*.

The theoretical part of the thesis focuses first and foremost on the Georgian cultural and media landscape, as well as on the genre of political TV fiction, leaving almost no space to more general sociological or culture studies theories, concerning the role of contemporary TV show industry in local political, cultural and social contexts. What I miss in the theoretical overview is reference to some theory proving that studying TV content is relevant to the society. It is, I must admit, a very difficult task, to prove empirically that a broadcast material influences people's attitudes, behaviour or political orientation, etc. The argument by the German sociologist Sigmund Kracauer might be of use here: *First, films are never the product of an individual (...). Since any film production unit embodies a mixture of heterogeneous interests and inclinations, teamwork in this field tends to exclude arbitrary handling of screen material, supressing individual peculiarities in favor of traits common to many people. Second, films address themselves, and appeal, to the anonymous multitude. Popular films, or, to be more precise, popular screen motifs, can therefore be supposed to satisfy existing mass desires.* (1947)

As far as the methodological part is concerned, it is not clear what is the difference between the quantitative and qualitative analysis the student conducted. Moreover, naming it simply qualitative or quantitative is not enough. There are some specific designs within those two approaches. Therefore, my question for the discussion regards the mentioned methodology – what specific methods of social research were deployed in the presented research?

The thesis is well written, although from time to time, a reader might come across some direct statements about Georgian society, but not only (e.g. the one about Vaclav Havel, Donald

Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy), with no single reference. I firmly believe in student's expertise on the subject, but there are some strict rules of academic writing and quoting one should obey to.

To sum up, the thesis by Ana Arakhamia gives an interesting insight into the processes that the Georgian society is subjected to and that are reflected in the TV series *Chemi Tsolis Daqalebi*. Consequently, I recommend the thesis for the defense and suggest the grade 2 (very good).

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