



## POSUDEK OPONENTA DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Název práce: The integration of Czech compatriots in Germany

Autor práce: David Knapek

### 1. Obsah práce

**Cíle, výzkumné otázky, hypotézy** (*přiměřenost cílů, geografický charakter a relevance cílů, teoretické podložení hypotéz aj.*)

The aims of the research are appropriate for a dissertation. The author focuses on the topic of integration and transnationalism of Czech compatriots in Germany. While there has been some research on the employment of Czechs in Germany, the topic of integration of Czech diaspora in Germany has not been explored in depth. The topic of integration and transnational character of diasporas is relevant for migration studies (including studies of return migration) and for the study of political and economic development of not only Czechia but also other countries and regions impacted by migration. The research in this dissertation therefore comes under the remit of geographical research.

The author compares the characteristics and integration of the Czech diaspora with two largest diasporas in Germany, specifically the Turkish and the Polish diaspora. This comparison is interesting and adds to the dissertation. The author aims to answer two research questions, the first research question looks at the impact of transnationalism on the level of integration of Czech compatriots. The second research question focuses on the impact of selected variables and socio-economic characteristics on the integration process and to what extent these reproduce current assimilation theories. The research questions are relevant and the author's hypothesis are theoretically grounded in relevant literature. For his last research question (regarding the reproduction of current assimilation theories), the author aims to compare the Czech diaspora in Germany with Czech diasporas in five other countries.

**Práce s literaturou** (*teoretické ukotvení práce, diskuse a kritické zhodnocení literatury aj.*)

The author draws on a wide range of relevant literature, including literature on the historical changes of migration between Czechia (or Czechoslovakia) and Germany. This historical context is relevant and interesting. After setting out the historical context, the author uses secondary data to provide a descriptive overview of the characteristics of the Czech diaspora in Germany. This is also interesting and relevant, though the author could have been more selective about some of the descriptive data, for example the detailed data on the number of



Czechs in different German states is not necessary for the overall purpose of the dissertation. However, overall the section works well.

Theoretically, the author draws on key concepts used in studies of migration and integration. He explains these concepts in the literature review and theoretical section. This section also contains an overview of existing assimilation theories (classic assimilation theory, segmented assimilation model, new assimilation model). The discussion of existing literature and theory is well developed and clear. The author chose to use the classification of five different integration dimensions developed by Heath (2021), which is appropriate for the aims of his research.

The author then includes two case studies, of Turkish and Polish diaspora in Germany, as a comparison with the Czech diaspora. The inclusion of these two case studies is an interesting aspect of the dissertation.

#### **Metodika práce** (*vhodnost aplikovaných metod, kvalita a vhodnost použitých dat aj.*)

The author uses quantitative data that was collected as part of a large GAČR project that research Czech diaspora in six different countries. From the whole sample, the author selected data related to Czech compatriots in Germany and conducted his own original analysis of assimilation and integration. From the larger dataset, the author selected specific questions that were relevant to answering the five integration dimensions that he decided to use for his analysis. He then added a sixth variable, transnationalism, as another aspect of integration. Both the methodology and the data selected from the larger dataset are appropriate and allowed the author to gain new insights and to answer his research questions.

#### **Analytická část práce** (*správnost a interpretace výsledků, detailnost, struktura a provázanost analýzy*)

The author used descriptive statistical methods and regression analysis to examine the impact of individual socio-economic characteristics on the respondent's integration values. The interpretation of results is correct and the explanation of the results follows a logical structure and is clear.

#### **Závěry práce** (*odpovědi na výzkumné otázky, zasazení závěrů do širšího kontextu výzkumu aj.*)

Through the original analysis of the data from the larger dataset, the author has provided new insights into this topic. The author has critically analysed the impact of socioeconomic



characteristics and transnationalism on the process of integration and concluded that transnationalism does not have to negatively impact on integration. The results are embedded in the theoretical discussion and the dissertation answers the research questions that the author sets out at the beginning. The discussion of different aspects of integration and of transnationalism is well developed, the discussion of the reproduction of current assimilation theories is developed less. The author uses his findings to comment on existing theory and contribute to theoretical debate.

## 2. Formální náležitosti práce (zatrhněte Vaši volbu)

Formální úprava: výborná / velmi dobrá / dobrá / nevyhovující

Stylistická úroveň: výborná / velmi dobrá / dobrá / nevyhovující

Citační úroveň: výborná / velmi dobrá / dobrá / nevyhovující

## Komentář (vč. kvality grafiky, (ne)přiměřenosti délky práce aj.)

The overall structure of the dissertation is very good and the writing style is appropriate for an academic dissertation. The text contains some typos and minor stylistic and citation mistakes, but these do not detract from the overall quality of the work.

## 3. Souhrn

### Celkové zhodnocení práce (vč. přínosů práce, provázanosti teoretické a analytické části aj.)

Overall, this is a very good dissertation which provides some new insights on a topic that has so far been under-researched. I feel that the author was perhaps overly ambitious in trying to compare the Czech diaspora in Germany with the Polish and Turkish diaspora, as well as compare the integration and assimilation of Czech diaspora/compatriots in Germany with those in other countries in the larger dataset. Consequently, some of these comparisons are not as well developed as other sections. However, the main theoretical discussion and the analysis and interpretation of the results are very detailed and developed.

Předloženou práci **doporučuji / nedoporučuji** k obhajobě. (zatrhněte Vaši volbu)

## Otázky k obhajobě



PŘÍRODOVĚDECKÁ  
FAKULTA  
Univerzita Karlova

You found that education level is overall an important aspect of integration, but for your German sample, education had a low impact on integration. How would you explain this finding? What could be the reason for this?

Datum: 20/01/2025

**Autor posudku:** Markéta Doležalová

Podpis:

**Přírodovědecká fakulta UK**

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