

The minutes of the dissertation defence

Student: Mgr. Linda Kovářová

Study Programme: Historical sciences

Branch of Study: Historie/Obecné dějiny (XODE)

Dissertation Title: “ UNESCO world heritage sites: Ways of presenting & interpreting the past. As seen in: Kutná Hora, Hiroshima and Villa Romana del Casale”

Language of the Dissertation: English

Language of the Defence: English

Supervisor: prof. PhDr. Lud' a Klusáková, CSc.

Opponents: Sonkoly Gábor, Dr.; doc. PhDr. Zdeněk Uherek, CSc.

Date of Defence: 30th June 2017

Place of Defence: Institute of World History; P204

Chair of the Board: prof. PhDr. Václav Horčíčka, PhD.

Members of the Board: doc. PhDr. Václav Drška, PhD., prof. PhDr. Jan Županič, PhD.; prof. PhDr. Svatava Raková, CSc.; prof. PhDr. Martin Kovář, PhD.

Persons present: According to the attendance list

9: 12 The chair of the board prof. Václav Horčíčka, PhD. started the defence, introduced himself, members of the board present and opponents present. Then he introduced the student to the persons present.

9: 14 The supervisor Lud' a Klusáková introduced briefly to the persons present her evaluation of the student's study and dissertation, given in her written report.

9:21 The student presented the propositions of her dissertation to the persons present. She said in particular, that her work is to be understood as a contribution to

the heritage studies. She willingly chose 3 different sites in different countries belonging to the 3 different UNESCO categories and related to 3 different periods in order to track variability and mutability of the phenomena. She used a specific approach of conceptualization of collective memory, made a broad fieldwork at the sites, interviewed the local officials, scholars and compared the documentation. She realized that despite the global character of the UNESCO organization the status of memorial helped to boost the national aspects of the presentation. Very specific is the local reaction to the sites (Kutná Hora is a historical community, Villa Romana is seen as the object built by invaders to the Sicily, in Japan no actual community emerged).

9:39 The opponent Gábor Sonkoly presented the main points of his report and the conclusion, stating that he recommends the submitted dissertation for defence. He put these questions to the student: 1. Is the term post-modern still applicable in 21st Century, which other theories are applicable? 2. Can some aspects found be presented as heritage rituals or practices? 3. How would you define the heritage community?

9:46 The opponent Zdeněk Uherek was absent. The chair of the board presented the main points of his report and the conclusion, stating that he recommends the submitted dissertation for defence.

9:54 The student reacted to the opponents' comments and their questions. 1. The concept of world heritage was established in the post modern epoque, so it was possible to follow the concept in the work. Recent theories are still not stabilised. 2. Commemorative practices could be seen as rituals (especially the peace memorial ceremony in Japan), very important is the participation of both the local community and the visitors. 3. The most important aspect is the identification with the site (very big problem in case of the villa romana).

9:58 Gábor Sonkoly accepted the performance of the student as valuable. The concept of heritage is new and relying on continuity (while the post-modernism relied on discontinuity and presentism).

10:04 The chair of the board opened the discussion. He himself asked about the inflation of the status of UNESCO. The student agreed, that there is a significant growth and disbalance in the UNESCO world heritage programs. She mentioned two cases when the UNESCO status was abolished. But the protection produces very big problem for local development. Gábor Sonkoly stated, that this problem would require a separate work, as a very complex issue. On the other hand we don't have the historical distance.

10:11 The chair of the board ended the defence itself and the board initiated a private meeting on classification of the dissertation defence.

The chair of the board announced to the student and persons present the result of the defence: The dissertation defence was classified pass.

Recorder: Mgr. Jakub Izdný

Name and signature of the chair of the board:

Name and signature of another member of the board: