

Review

on the Master's Thesis submitted by 2nd year student of the St. Petersburg State University's Master's Program in International Relations Iuliia Gataulina titled "GENDER EQUALITY: NORDIC MODEL IN THE RUSSIAN CONTEXT"

1. Evaluation of quality of dissertation

No.	Criteria	Grades: • Excellent (5) • Good (4) • Satisfactory (3) • Unsatisfactory (2) ¹	Comments
1.	Justification of research topic	5	Gataulina discusses previous studies and the current context in the Nordic Countries and in Russia and makes a well-grounded argument for the need to address gender equality issues in the Russian context and in particular, the way in which Russian actors may or may not adopt and domesticate Nordic gender equality models in Russia.
2.	Academic novelty	5	Even though gender issues have been addressed in the Russian context, this research introduces research based on fresh data gathered by the researcher herself by observing and interviewing the activists. Postcolonial feminism is not that often used in studies on gender in the Russian context either.
3.	Clarity in setting of objectives	5	The research design, incl. research questions, is adequate and understandable.
4.	Sufficiency and reliability of research material	5	Gataulina uses both documents and interviews as her data. In addition, she has observed some events organized by the Eve's Ribs project. In the thesis, she introduces her data in an adequate matter. The quantity and quality of research materials are excellent. They are studied systematically and reliably.
5.	Linking the research to literature in the field	4	Discussion on contextuality of knowledge, postcolonial feminism and the concepts of policy transfer and domestication make up the theoretical framework for the study. In addition, Gataulina discusses widely previous studies on gender equality. She could have been more explicit in the conclusions about her contribution to the field.
6.	Justification of selection of methods	4	Methods for gathering data are excellent. See also 2. and 4. As for content analysis, this is a basic technique for qualitative analysis of texts, and it is appropriate for this study.
7.	Answering the research question	5	All the research questions have been addressed in the study, and the researcher answers to them based on the analysis of her data and partly based on the previous research.

¹ "Unsatisfactory" (failed) grade for one of the aspects automatically means that the dissertation does not meet requirements to Master's Thesis, that the author does not deserve the degree of Master of International Relations, and that recommended grade for the entire dissertation is "unsatisfactory". In case of "unsatisfactory" (failed) grade is recommended, the reviewer is expected to write extensive comments in the "comments" column and also in the "Conclusion / recommendation to state examination commission" section

8.	Mastery of academic writing conventions	5	Gataulina writes good academic English, and all the references have been properly marked.
Average grade (calculated as simple mean of grades in column 2):		4.75	

2. **Conclusion / recommendation to state examination commission: the dissertation meets (~~does not meet~~) requirements to Master's Theses; its author deserves (~~does not deserve~~) the degree of Master of International Relations.**

3. **Recommended grade: excellent / good / satisfactory / unsatisfactory – choose one**

Date 7 June 2017



Signature of the Reviewer

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