**Review of the scientific supervisor**

**on the master thesis**

**„The Journalism Culture in Ukraine in Times of Conflict“**

**of Isabel Lerch**

**Master program “Global communication and International journalism”**

In time of training at the faculty of journalism of St. Petersburg State University Isabel Leach has proved herself as talented, initiative, thoughtful, responsible and independent person. She achieved a good academic progress, excellent results in her research activity, made lots of efforts to gather as much information as possible to create a detailed and objective research.

Mrs. Lerch is really interested in the topic of research, her goal is to find the answer about how is the conflict in the East of Ukraine influencing the journalism culture in the country. For that reason, she has studied a large number of theoretical sources and documents on the research subject. Beside, In October 2017 she had a research trip to Kyiv, meeting with Ukrainian scholar and expert on Ukrainian Journalism Culture Dariya Orlova (Kyiv Mohyla Academy). She also visited the Ukrainian crisis media center (Kyiv). Isabel Lerch brought her journalistic experience to the research which helped her to gather an extensive evidentiary base and to carefully reason the final results and judgments.

Isabel Lerch presented preliminary results of her master thesis in the Media Conference "On the Tightrope: Journalism in a polarized Europe" (Moscow, 2016), at university master seminar at the Free University about Postcolonial Theory and its implementation in the Eastern European/Post-Soviet context (Berlin, 2017), in the scientific conference "Mass Media in the Contemporary World. Young Researchers" (Saint Petersburg, 2018). She participated in the Intercultural German-Russian Workshop "Value Discourse with Russia" (Berlin, 2017) and in the Annual Conference of the German Academic Exchange Service (Moscow, 2018). She also received an academic scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD for the studies at St Petersburg State University.

Discussions with the research supervisor have taken place regularly. Isabel Lerch has showed responsible and conscientious attitude to work, carried out research tasks at high level and with observance of the approved schedule. I would like to emphasize the thesis was written with scrupulous care and consummate craftsmanship. After supervising the technical part of research work I can confirm that Isabel Lerch definitely has a great academic potential. Being self-critical and attentive to details and my comments, she’s always been trying to get the best out of her research. Mrs. Lerch was highly concerned about the quality and reliability of her work. Choosing methods for the research she took into consideration real possibilities and restrictions of a master thesis and invested lot of efforts into a structured and realistic research design. Her thesis was handed in on time and met all the required standards.

Elena Georgieva,

PhD in Political Studies, Assistant Professor

Department of International Journalism

School of Journalism & Mass Communication

St. Petersburg State University