



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Report on the part of the master state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2021/2022

Student's name and surname: Nathalie Alice Weatherald
Student's ID: 51849004

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: Journalism, Media and Globalisation
Study ID: 685600

Title of the thesis: Reinventing the blurry oval: Practitioner perceptions of deepfakes as a tool for anonymisation in documentary film and video journalism
Thesis department: Department of Journalism (23-KZ)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Mgr. Sandra Lábová
Reviewer(s): doc. Robert Silverio, Ph.D.
Date of defence: 16.09.2022 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: Welcome: doc. Alice Němcová Tejkalová
Candidate's presentation:
1.Introduction, objectives of the study
2.Research questions presented
3.Theoretical framework and purpose of the study -
4.Research design, semi-structured interviews, analysis - thematic analysis. Data collection and analysis
5.Findings
6.Discussion and Limitations

Reviews read and commented on by the candidate.
Mgr. Sandra Lábová (supervisor):
The presented master thesis brings a well-developed study. The research is based on a sound theoretical foundation, critically accountable. The thesis shows a systematic structure. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of the research problem and the ability to work independently and critically.
Concerning the originality of the study, the topic and the main research objectives are certainly novel, both within the context of deepfakes research and journalism studies. The thesis presents the issue from an unusual perspective and sort of de-demonize the use of deepfakes technology. I believe it contributes to the discussion by offering an alternative narrative. On the other hand, a narrow definition of the research problem limits the possibility of being recognized as a significant contribution to the academic knowledge discussion. However, this might change in the future. The deepfakes technology and its potential impact on broader societal realities are still under investigation.
Suggested Grade: A

doc. Robert Silverio (opponent):
The thesis is focused on a specific, very narrow theme. The subject is original, and the methodology is adequate. The individual chapters are well written. The only flaw I see is the lack of summarization of what was the main concerns of the respondents.
Suggested Grade: A

Questions asked and answered:

Supervisor: Mgr. Sandra Lábová

In your opinion, is the use of deepfakes in "serious" documentary work justifiable? What, according to you, are the biggest threats the deepfakes impose on journalism? Would you also identify other benefits as the one research in your thesis?

Opponent: doc. Robert Silverio

Why did you choose not to make any summarization of the views of respondents?

Could you address the problematics of the change of expression of the transformed faces of the protagonists in a documentary that uses deepfake-like technology and possible shift of the meaning (since the meaning of what one says is not carried with words only)?

Discussion follows

Final Grade announced: A

Result of defence:	excellent (A)
Chair of the board:	doc. PhDr. Alice Němcová Tejkalová, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Mgr. Veronika Macková, Ph.D. (present)
	doc. Robert Silverio, Ph.D. (present)
	Mgr. Anna Shavit, Ph.D. (present)