

Reviewer's report

Nele Steiling, *Concepts of Childhood in Children's Television: the Normalization co-production of "Pan Tau"*, FHS 2022.

First of all I have to say that I have never seen *Pan Tau*, and, therefore, my remarks are remarks of somebody who is unfamiliar with the topic. From my point of view I am not sure if *Pan Tau* really "reached cult status for an entire generation all over the Europe" (p. 7) – all the more so that Ms. Steiling supports her statement only with a reference to the statement of Jindřich Polák who was this series' director and with a reference to one article published in *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Yes, *Pan Tau* could be such a great phenomenon but maybe such a claim can be seen as a needless overstatement and we should rather speak about a goodly popularity of *Pan Tau* in the middle Europe (on the both side of the Berlin Wall) and (maybe) in Scandinavia.

Despite my initial scepticism I must say that the presented bachelor thesis of Nele Steiling is very well elaborated. I really appreciate her approaches, her knowledge of theoretical literature in the field of cultural history and beyond (C. Geertz, J. Fiske, A. Portelli), and her arguments' presentation. Ms. Steiling's thesis – which is also in touch with the latest approaches in historiography of the late socialism and, therefore, place emphasis on the ambivalent nature of public sphere in that period and distances itself from the traditional binary approaches – is in some ways more than a bachelor thesis (many parts of it are possible to be read as a master thesis).

From this point of view, it was pleasure for me to read such a good student's work and it is quite easy to recommend this thesis to pass with the excellent mark. I will do it in my conclusion, of course. However, as a reviewer, I would like to point out one quite important issue which is worth of discussion here.

This issue relates to the proclaimed statement about above mentioned importance of distancing oneself from the binary logic in research of the late socialism – Ms. Steiling states this – and I have nothing against it – but, for this reason, she should be more cautious with the terminology she uses in her thesis. If she claims this, she should, for example, discuss in a more nuanced and critical way such a term as "isle of freedom" (to which Ms. Steiling uncritically refers on p. 19) because this term is also a product of this binary logic. Also, the term "subversive" should be used in a more nuanced way, and should be in touch with the contemporary theory (see for example works of A. Yurchak, A. Lüdtkke etc.). In other words, I think that despite explicitly proclaimed statement about the importance of the ambiguity towards cultural phenomena in the late socialism, there is implicitly in some way a continuation of the traditional binary logic.

Nevertheless, as I said, the bachelor thesis of Nele Steiling is a great example of an excellent bachelor thesis which is in a deep contact with theory and I am glad to recommend it to pass with the mark excellent (1).

In Prague, August 31st 2022

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