

Review

Morell Ian: Plastic in nature. Understanding Plastic in its Sociohistorical Context

As a supervisor, I would like to stress the fact, that the cooperation with the student was far from perfect. We did not have any communication for at least one and a half year, so I was not aware that Ian Morell is still a student at the programme. I have received the final thesis just few days from the deadline.

However, I must also highlight a positive aspects of the thesis:

- The thesis is very well written. It is a very readable text.
- The topic is very contemporary and important regarding global problems in general and environmental challenges in particular.

Nevertheless, I consider the thesis has got some significant weaknesses. First, I am afraid the thesis does not even try to formulate its research question/research sub-questions. Then, it is very problematic to evaluate, if the research questions have been answered or not. It is also very difficult to evaluate, if the whole analysis is guided by some basic logic or not. The conclusion chapter itself does not seem to answer any specific research question.

Second, the theoretical framework for dealing with the environmental disaster is focusing solely on a criticism of capitalism. I would assume that there is rather more general problem of dialectics between industrial society (that can be centrally planned or based on market forces) and nature. I guess, the proliferation of plastic pollution was a phenomenon that has also started to occur during the late communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe. It would be nice if the student could discuss this issue during his defence.

Third, I think, the thesis uses and builds only on very limited amount of scholars and on not so clear selection of their literature.

Regarding formal aspects of the thesis, I am not sure it is an article (which is claimed on many pages of the thesis).

I propose mark three.

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