

Priv.-Doz. Mag.Dr.phil. Dr.med. Sonia Horn
Apostelgasse 2-14/5/69
A- 1030 Vienna
e-mail: sonia.horn@univie.ac.at

Vienna, 27.05.2023

Reference for the PhD thesis of Patrick Lukas Zawadzki:

“Analysis and contextualisation of the work and life of the pharmacologists W. Wiechowski, E. Starkenstein and G. Kuschinsky with particular focus on their contribution to modern pharmacology” (Prague 2023)

With great pleasure I respond to the request for a reference concerning the PhD thesis of **Patrick Lukas Zawadzki**. The thesis is **excellent** as it is and needs no revisions at all.

The readability of the text is fine, there are no mistakes concerning the language, the arguments are presented in a very clear and convincing way, it was a pleasure to read this thesis.

Patrick Lukas Zawadzki follows a well-established methodological approach to answer questions concerning the transformation of pharmaceutical knowledge at the beginning up to the mid of the 20th Century - which is a very challenging task, especially because of the well-known political developments during the observed period. He focusses on the biographies and the academic achievements of the three important researchers, Wilhelm Wiechowski, Emil Starkenstein and Gustav Kuschinsky, their academic careers, their research, their role in society and the impact of their results on the development and transformation of knowledge in the field of Pharmacology and Medicine.

Comparing these biographies allows the follow up impacts of historical and political changes on personal and academic opportunities to carry out research, define research goals and make them available for the academic and scientific community. In this context the candidate also discusses the topic of „victimization“ in the History of Science and Medicine, which is a definition, that has been influencing the historiography of Science and Medicine intensively. It is a very valuable approach to question defined and probably not really accurate understandings of personal life events connected with scientific developments in the History of Science.

Patrick Lukas Zawadzki also mentions the social connections of the mentioned pharmacologists and their families - their activities in cultural life (see footnote 212), but also in sports and also describes the opportunities of women in this context (see footnote 224)

It is interesting, that the mentioned proponents also contributed to existing knowledge in the field of nutrition (eg. the use of kombucha) and the use of drugs like hashish – it was definitely new to me, that this was part of pharmacological research at that time.

In fact, I really enjoyed reading this thesis. This excellent research also shows that the candidate was well accompanied by his supervisor.

For sure the results of this research will add important knowledge to the History of Medicine and Pharmacology, as this topic still has not been explored sufficiently. I very much hope that Patrick Lukas Zawadzki will have the opportunity to carry on with his research, as with this thesis he proves, that he is a very promising researcher and I would be happy to support his research and career, if this would be required.

With kindest regards



Priv.- Doz. Mag.Dr.phil. Dr.med. Sonia Horn