

BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Comparative Analysis of Russian Religious Soft Power in Georgia and Ukraine Throughout the Past 15 Years
Student's name:	Elene Kobakhidze
Referee's name:	Josef Mlejnek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	35
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	12
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	12
<i>Total</i>		80	59
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	5
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	4
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	14
TOTAL		100	73

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:

[NB:] If the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review.

I did not find signs of plagiarism in this bachelor thesis.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

The value of the work is reduced by several facts that mainly concern Ukraine.

- 1) There is a lack of a more detailed presentation of the Ukrainian religious scene in terms of the regional distribution of the level of religiosity (high in the west, low in the east). Even in terms of the territorial distribution of support for individual churches – the UOC MP dominated in the east and southeast, but was also present in the western parts of the country.
- 2) A more detailed presentation of the basic parameters of the UOC MP, which was and is quite heterogeneous, is missing. It also had a pro-Ukrainian wing and also a "moderate current", focused more on the religious rather than the political or ideological side of church life.

3) In public opinion polls, there has long been a fairly large group of Ukrainian Orthodox who did not state their affiliation to a specific Orthodox Church. They expressed their position with the expression "only Orthodox". This fact could have been taken more into account in the analysis.

4) The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Eastern in rite, but subordinate to the Roman Pope, also deserved a mention. It is strongly linked with Ukrainian nationalism and is also a frequent target of Russian propaganda attacks.

Despite the mentioned reservations, I consider the work to be a well-executed analysis that provides well-founded conclusions. In her bachelor's thesis, the author also convincingly demonstrates how Russian hard power devastates the gains possibly achieved through soft power. Only the Ukrainian situation could have been a bit more elaborate. Including the role of the "founding myth" or the Christianization of Kievan Rus by Saint Vladimir in Ukrainian and Russian identity, both ecclesiastical and nationalist. The author mentions it, but it could have been elaborated in more detail.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): C

Suggested questions for the defence are: What is the relationship of pro-Ukrainian Christian churches to conservative and liberal values?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.