

Supervisor's report

on M.A. thesis by Kristýna Marková, "Development of Civil Right in the United States: Black Lives Matter"

In her M.A. thesis, Marková focuses primarily on exploring the movement Black Lives Matter from a perspective influenced by feminism and gender-related questions. She explores the predecessors of Black Lives Matter, its socio-cultural context, activism, and the fight for civil rights in the US. The document includes sixty-one pages - an Introduction, four chapters discussing the Fight for Civil Rights, Black Lives Matter, Police Brutality, White Fragility, a Conclusion, and a Bibliography.

Structure of the thesis, methodology and achievements:

The work is well-organized, moving from the history of the civil rights movements, via an analysis of the assets and shortcomings of Black Lives Matter, police brutality and under-representation of female victims, to the challenges of white fragility. Stylistically, it is written in a clear and coherent way, slowly paving its way to the conclusion, while supporting its arguments by respected works from the fields of history, literature, contemporary media, news, and politics.

Marková uses the method of close-reading of academic works, news, and fiction, while also including texts related to the socio-cultural context. Various phenomena, such as racial profiling, mass incarceration, intersectionality, liberation, and black (esp. female, queer, and also teenage) identities, are explored thoroughly and in a convincing manner.

Her thesis (on p. 11) which drives her work is that "the progress on achieving racial equality is hindered mainly by the marginalization of female and LGBTQIA+ victims, by white fragility, and by specific cases of systemic racism." She provides clear examples and incidents where this situation occurs. What lures in the background of her work are not only feminist concerns (supported by ideas and images from bell hooks, Angela Davis, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Leila Mottley, and movement "Say Her Name") but also a claim found in the work of Toni Morrison (*Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the literary imagination*, 11) saying that many people still believe that "racism is inevitable, permanent and eternal part of all social landscapes." Marková challenges this sentence and - without being overly optimistic - offers suggestions and possible directions that could lead American society out of this unfortunate and unsatisfactory situation. She writes (p.10) that "it is crucial for us to understand and uncover the racist patterns within the social structure in order to beat racial inequity." She explores the racist patterns in detail. Her conclusion sums up all the main ideas and findings from the individual chapters.

Shortcomings (Errata):

Marková probably overlooked the mistake in the title (which I helped her correct earlier) and wrote there "Civil Right" instead of "Civil Rights."

Conclusion:

Ms. Marková worked on her thesis diligently, improving gradually both its theoretical and contextual content. I recommend the thesis for defense and propose a preliminary grade of 1.

Blanka Maderová, PhD.

25th of August, 2023