CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism

MA THESIS REVIEW

NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!

Review type (choose one):
    Review by thesis supervisor ⊠   Review by opponent ☐

Thesis author:
    Surname and given name: Eric Machado Raupp,
Thesis title: From bricks to pixels and memory: An Instagram-ic multimodal analysis of the meanings upheld in the journalistic commemoration of the fall of the Berlin Wall
Reviewer:
    Surname and given name: Sandra Lábová
    Affiliation: IKSŽ

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
1.2	Methodology	⊠	☐	☐	☐	☐
1.3	Thesis structure	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific):

2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT
Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	A
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	A
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	A
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and to use them correctly	A
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	A
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	A

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems):
The aims and objectives of the thesis are sound. Eric Raupp provides a persuasive theoretical framework and literature review. Qualitative content analysis uses principles of Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis. The choice of the research method is appropriate. The candidate explains the details of the research design and reasoning for choosing the particular sampling, data collection, and analysis tools. The findings are well argued and provide a deep and valuable insight into the research problem. Furthermore, the finding are discussed within the theoretical framework and scholarly knowledge.

3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM
Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
3.1	Quality of the structure	A
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	A
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	A

3.4	Quality, quantity and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	A
3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	A
3.6	Use of an academic writing style, and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	A
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	A

(*) in case the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; in case the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems):
The thesis is well-structured. The writing is coherent and maintains an academic writing style and terminology. The referencing style and citations are correct.

4. OVERAL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis's strengths and weaknesses):

Eric Raup's MA diploma thesis presents original research results in the fields of journalism studies and visual communication. The author examines the visual commemoration of a significant historical event within the context of the social network Instagram, with a specific focus on quality news outlets and their utilization of visual narratives to shape cultural history. **The study's objectives and aims are both clear and coherent. The thesis is built upon a thorough literature review and a theoretical framework rooted in a constructivist approach. This framework argues that media outlets and journalism play a pivotal role in constructing social memory. As part of this process, social networks become powerful tools. However, as highlighted by Eric Raup, limited attention has been paid to content analysis of the construction of remembrance on Instagram's news outlets coverage. The thesis thus bring original findings that possess the potential to address a gap in the contemporary state of research.** **Eric Raup employs a qualitative approach, specifically utilizing the relatively novel Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis methodology. This approach enables him to delve into the subject of collective memory and explore how narratives are shaped by dominant discourses through mass communication. The candidate employs a systematic approach and encompasses various media outlets with diverse backgrounds and origins. Such an inclusive approach allows for a deeper understanding of dominant discourses concerning the narratives of the Fall of the Berlin Wall across different cultural backgrounds.** **The final discussion presents several dominant discourses that align with the results of other scholarly studies, thereby enriching the discourse on how these dominant discourses are replicated and reinforced.** **In conclusion, the presented thesis demonstrates outstanding quality, and therefore I suggest evaluating it with a grade of A.**

5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:

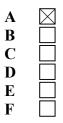| 5.1	How do media outlets' political and ideological inclinations influence the language used, images selected, and information presented in their narratives?
5.2	Discuss the significance of visual representation in commemorative journalism on platforms like Instagram? How do you think the images go beyond their indexical function to convey deeper symbolic meanings? How does Instagram, as a platform, contribute to the preservation and construction of collective memory? What challenges and opportunities does social media present for commemorating historical events like the Fall of the Berlin Wall?
5.3	
5.4	

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

☒ The reviewer is familiar with the thesis' score in plagiarism analysis in SIS.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	The overall similarity in Turnitin is 24%, most of which are included in the theoretical part of the thesis. All sources and citations are correctly cited.

7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)

A ☒
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐
F ☐

If the mark is an "F", please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:

Date: August 29, 2023   Signature: ………………………………..

A finalised review should be printed, signed and submitted in two copies to the secretary of the Department of Media Studies. The electronic version of the review should be converted into a PDF and uploaded to SIS, or sent to the Department of Media Studies secretary who will upload it to SIS on the reviewer's behalf.

Do not upload PDFs with a scanned signature, the review uploaded to SIS must be without signature.