

BACHELOR THESIS REVIEW

Type of review: *thesis supervisor, opponent*

Author: Alexandra Lebriez

Title: **Environments of DIY Spirituality**

Supervisor: Bohuslav Kuřík

Reviewer: Michaela Pixová

Please explain the reasons for your evaluation (especially reservations and criticisms) according to the criteria listed below.

1. Is the aim of the thesis (research question) clearly stated and do the conclusions correspond to it? Is the thesis appropriately structured?

Comments: The aim of the thesis is stated clearly, and the conclusions correspond to it. It is obvious that the author of the thesis was passionate about the topic of the research and put a lot of effort into it. There is a lot of very interesting information in the analytical part which may be sometimes confusing for someone not familiar with the two cities and the two scenes, and some of the conclusions are up to the readers to summarise for themselves. It would be therefore nice to see a more detailed and less generalizing summary of how the two scenes differ from each other or what commonalities stem from DIY participation (this was one of the questions explicitly stated among research aims).

The thesis is structured well. I am not sure why “punk” is not in the title of the thesis – DIY is not only a punk phenomenon.

2. Is the thesis based on relevant research and literature and does it accurately summarize and integrate the information?

Comments: Yes, the thesis is based on relevant literature sources sufficient for a bachelor thesis. The thesis is accurately sourced and the analysis of the data is also appropriate.

Given my disciplinary background (human geography), I would personally suggest slightly different sources, aside from deeper dive into literature which specifically deals with subcultures' links to religion and spirituality, I would also consider humanistic geography, which deals with people's relationships to the environment and feelings connected to it, or other strands of geography, such as cultural geography, which talks specifically about the relationship between different cultures and spaces. However, unfortunately these disciplines are not very widespread in the Czech context, and therefore rarely used in sociological research.

3. What is the quality of the data or the other sources? Are the sample method, data collection and data analysis appropriate?

Comments: Yes, the number of respondents is sufficient, method of data collection and analysis appropriate. Personally, I think it would be great to focus more specifically on the connection between punk, spirituality and aging. After all, the author states it herself – she only interviewed older punks, because spirituality is something that comes with age. The thesis also does not talk about how the two punk scenes and their spiritualities reproduce themselves – is there some kind of generational transfer, or is it purely personal among groups of friends who are old punks? Does it tell us anything about the scene as such? And if environment is a factor – why does it not influence the younger members of the scene? However, I realize that these questions are perhaps too specific and definitely beyond the scope of a bachelor's thesis.

I also wonder – the appendix of the thesis shows some examples of local bands' lyrics, and I find that maybe they could have been more visibly incorporated into the overall analysis.

4. Are the findings relevant to the research question? Are the conclusions of the thesis based on strong arguments?

Comments: I have already answered this in connection to the research aims (point 1). I find it particularly interesting that the scenes themselves remain secular and spirituality happens outside of them, among groups of good friends, although the scene clearly works as a trigger, eye opener or a gateway to the exploration of one's spirituality. I would welcome more elaboration on why this disconnect exists, and on the use of substances – what kind of use is not seen as appropriate, and which one enhances one's spiritual becoming? The answer to that in the thesis is rather vague and general. I also find it interesting that the scene in Ostrava is clearly influenced by (and most likely also influential to) the presence of universities where humanities are studied, while people with interest in humanities cannot really live in Vsetín due to lack of appropriate jobs. This makes sense.

5. Are the author's thoughts distinguished unambiguously from the borrowed ideas?

Comments: Yes

6. What is the quality of style and other formal requirements?

Comments: Very good, especially high level of English, appropriate referencing style, but there are some inconsistencies, e.g., some links are hyperlinked, some are not, some have information about the date they were retrieved, some do not... etc. Bibliography could use to be double checked. The thesis had a few minor typos, like inappropriate letter in bold etc.

7. Are there any other strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, which are not included in the previous questions? Please list them if any.

I find that the author could have done a better review of existing literature about the punk subculture and its current situation. Many people might be surprised that the subculture still exists... given the post-subcultural theory, or the extent to which it has been commodified and coopted by mainstream culture. None of these questions are discussed in the thesis. How has the subculture changed over the course of almost half a century? And why do we actually need to study punk's relationship to spirituality? Would it not be more interesting to study how come it is still alive and kicking in certain localities, and not in others? Who are the people who still stay in punk and does

the fact that they experience spirituality have something to do with it? Speaking of environment, does the current environmental crisis play any role in it all? Again, I am sure these questions are beyond the scope of a bachelor thesis, but they might be some food for thought.

8. What topic do you suggest for the discussion in the thesis defence?

All the questions I am asking in point 7.

9. I declare that I have checked the result of the originality check of the thesis:

Theses Turnitin Ouriginal (Urkund)

Comment on the result of the check:

Overall evaluation of the thesis:

(Please, state clearly whether the thesis is or is not recommended for a defence and write the main reasons for the recommendation).

I find this thesis to be of sufficiently high standard to be recommended for a defence.

The main reason for this recommendation is that the author has very good communication skills, good writing style, high level of English, clearly knows how to work with literature sources and although there are always more sources to be found, the bibliography is more than sufficient for a bachelor thesis. The methods of data collection and analysis are appropriate. The topic is interesting and original – I learned something new myself, conclusions meet the research aims. I would personally like to see current student theses to be more embedded in the context of the current socio-environmental crisis, and critically reflect on them, especially given topics such as punk and environment, but this is just my recommendation for the future which does not diminish the quality of the thesis.

Proposed grade: (A - F)

A

Date:

21. 8. 2023

Signature: