

Bachelor thesis review (supervisor)

Name and surname: Lucy Roberts

Title: Behind the Scenes of Deinstitutionalization: A Gendered Perspective on Mental Health in American Cinema

Supervisor: PhDr. Marek Urban, PhD.

1. Style and formatting:

The bachelor thesis by Lucy Roberts demonstrates a high level of adherence to APA 7th edition guidelines, with a well-organized IMRaD structure, appropriate citation practices, and a clear presentation of research findings. The formatting follows the specified standards, contributing to the overall readability and academic rigor of the document.

2. Theoretical introduction:

Theoretical introduction skillfully synthesizes a large amount of information, bridging historical discourse and social psychology, demonstrating a deep engagement with the topic. The introduction draws on historical context, specifically the rise and fall of asylums and the introduction of psychotropic drugs, to frame the subsequent analysis. Social representation theory provides the lens to examine how films reflected and potentially influenced cultural perceptions of mental illness and gender roles during this period (1962-1975).

3. Methodology and Results:

The goal of the study was to understand how deinstitutionalization, a major social shift in mental health care, was represented in American cinema, alongside gender representations of people involved in mental health care. The thesis adopted inductive thematic analysis of films from this era, revealing a complex interplay between anxieties and empathy surrounding mental illness. Hospitals were depicted as potentially helpful but stifling, while alternative treatments were met with distrust. Gender stereotypes heavily influenced portrayals, with women's mental illness linked to trauma and motherhood, and men's illness seen as a threat to masculinity. The thesis highlights the need for further exploration of how media nowadays address mental health care and the lasting impact of mental illness on fulfilling gender expectations in society. From my perspective, the qualitative analysis was employed expertly, the themes are self-explicatory, discrete, bringing new information about the topic.

4. Ethics:

There are no concerns regarding the ethics of the research.

5. Conclusion

The thesis of Lucy Roberts stands out for its deep engagement with the subject matter, combining detailed theoretical background with qualitative research to offer a nuanced view of the social representations of mental health care during deinstitutionalization era. In conclusion, I would also add that Lucy Roberts worked on her study independently, she was able to create her own research goals, select the appropriate methodological tools and conduct the analysis.

With this being said, **I gladly recommend the thesis for the defense with a grade excellent (1).**

In Prague, June 4th, 2024

PhDr. Marek Urban, PhD.