



Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: Dana Alsaialy
Student's ID: 58938013

Type of the study programme: Bachelor's
Study programme: Social Sciences
Study ID: 712952

Title of the thesis: "Beyond pure health": Exploring diagnostic pathways, quasi-medicalization, and patient expertise in dermatology

Thesis department: Department of Sociology (23-KS)

Language of the thesis: English

Language of defence: English

Advisor: doc. PhDr. Dino Numerato, Ph.D.

Reviewer(s): Mgr. Barbora Benešová

Date of defence: 20.06.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha

Attempt: regular

Course of the examination: The chair of the committee began the exam. The student presented her thesis in around 15 minutes. The supervisor read his review. The scope of the literature review is impressive and the work managed to describe the complexity of the observed phenomenon. Analysis was transparent, and arguments on the social construction of the observed processes is persuasive. However, considering the farreaching scope of the thesis, not all points were addressed in detail. Nevertheless, the quality of the work is high, according to the supervisor.

The opponent's review was read. The opponent notes that the thesis is of commendable academic quality, offering valuable insights. However, the work could engage more with literature in medical sociology and anthropology. Nevertheless, the overall quality is high.

The supervisor's question:

'Considering the following observation: "Regarding methodology, adopting a multi-step approach to data collection, such as supplementing interviews with (virtual) observations", (p. 48) could you please specify what could be specifically meant by virtual observations and type of data could be included?'

He also pointed out the non-inclusion of more severe dermatological conditions.

Student's answer:

The focus on acne etc. made the thesis more focused and therefore strengthened the arguments. However, it could be communicated more clearly in the future.

Regarding the 'virtual observations' refers to a digital method

conducted on the internet but this was eventually excluded from the thesis.

The opponent's question:

'What other areas or structural factors could be explored in studying emerging lay expertise and changing understanding of health in dermatology? Reading through the thesis, I reflected on the works of Deborah Lupton, Maurizio Meloni, or Nikolas Rose regarding neoliberal pressures, selfresponsibilization, the necessity for self-monitoring, or the new understanding of health shaped by technological possibilities (e.g., super efficient lotions from Seoul). Which of these (or any other) areas do you think warrants further exploration?'

Student's answer:

Exploring different actors within dermatology and its different fields would be fruitful in the future. Furthermore, exploring this topic in different cultural contexts and countries with high beauty standards would also be valuable.

Besides that, the student addressed other points raised by the opponent in the review.

An engaged discussion followed, spanning the topics of the role of socioeconomic factors, cultural differences, and other potential factors influencing the researched issue.

The committee agreed that the work is worth of a special commendation (návrh na ocenění) and agreed on the grade A.

Result of defence:	excellent (A)	
Chair of the board:	Hájek Martin, doc. Mgr., Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Kotherová Zuzana, Ing., Ph.D. (present)
	Remr Jiří, Mgr., Ph.D. (present)