

**UNIVERZITA KARLOVA**  
**Fakulta sociálních věd**  
**Institut mezinárodních studií**

**PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE**  
**(Posudek vedoucí)**

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): Yijin Wang

Název práce:

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1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

The goal of Yijin Wang's MA thesis titled "How Chinese Media Covered the Cancellation of the Sister-city Relationship between Beijing and Prague: A Study Based on Sentiment Analysis and Keyword Extraction" is to examine how Chinese media reported on the cancellation of the sister-city relationship between Beijing and Prague, particularly in the context of City of Prague's subsequent decision to establish a sister-city relationship with Taipei. The study uses sentiment analysis and keyword extraction to analyze Chinese media articles published between July 2019 and February 2020, categorizing them into institutional, market-oriented, and online media, and examining their sentiment.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

Yijin Wang's thesis consists of three major chapters, introduction, and conclusion. The introduction is unfortunately very generic and does not provide a good pitch for the problem that will be further analyzed. At the same time, the author refers to several scholarly publications focusing on the image of Central and East Europe in Chinese media - but does not provide references to these sources. Following this rather underwhelming opening, the author fully delves into her analysis, which is much stronger. Ms. Wang provides a comprehensive overview of literature dealing with the Chinese media landscape, PRC-CEE relations, and the image of CEE in Chinese media. Subsequently, she introduces the analytical approach - working with a selection of 72 articles that were published between July 2019 and February 2020, e.i. during the period of termination of the sister city agreement and the establishment of the sister city agreement between Prague and Taipei.

Yijing Wang, through her very meticulous analysis of Chinese media content, came to several conclusions. Her analysis finds that Chinese media focused heavily on the Taiwan-related aspects of the incident rather than the termination of the sister-city relationship itself. The media portrayed the issue as a triangular relationship involving Prague, Beijing, and Taipei, with significant attention paid to Taiwan. The overall sentiment of the media coverage was predominantly negative, especially after Prague established a sister-city relationship with Taipei. As the research showcases, the negative sentiment intensified in January 2020, reflecting the media's disapproval of Prague's actions and the perceived challenge to China's "One China" policy. Another really interesting focus of Chinese media is the then Lord Mayor of Prague Zdeněk Hřib who was frequently mentioned in the media articles, often in a negative light. The media portrayed him as a pro-Taiwan figure, contrasting his stance with the more neutral or positive portrayal of the Czech central government and then President Miloš Zeman. The study also paid attention to differences in how various types of Chinese media reported on the event. The author concludes that while Chinese media of any kind operate in highly controlled and censored environment, there is some nuance in reporting - institutional media had relatively consistent and government-aligned reporting, while market-oriented and online media showed varying degrees of

negativity, especially concerning Taiwan-related issues, and paid attention to different aspects of the disputes, such as online media covered a bit more in detail the economic or cultural consequences, which received no attention in the institutional media.

The author used different graphics to explain divisions of Chinese media, word clouds, as well as tables and figures to illustrate her findings. The list of these is listed in the list of appendices - however, they are not included as a separate addition to the paper.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

The thesis is well written and has a logical structure. Except for a few typos, it is easy to navigate and read. The author draws on a significant number of resources, often including works that explain mentioned phenomena. I would only recommend dividing the final bibliography based on the type of the resource (books, academic articles etc.).

#### 4. KONTROLA ORIGINALITY TEXTU

Prohlašuji, že jsem se seznámil/a s výsledkem kontroly originality textu závěrečné práce v systému:

Theses  Turnitin  Ouriginal (Urkund)

Komentář k výsledku kontroly:

Based on feedback from Theses, there is a very small overlap of 2 percent, i.e. this paper is original.

5. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z diplomové práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Yijin Wang presented a solid analysis which describes not only the operation of the Chinese media environment, but also reveals how the Chinese government shapes media narratives in relation to the Czech Republic. At the same time, some of the approaches have a broader application and reveal how the PRC controls and shapes narratives about its foreign policy and about foreign countries' dealings with China.

I found the most interesting the author's conclusion that the Chinese media was less negative about the end of the sister city agreement between Prague and Shanghai, but became very critical around the time of the conclusion of the Prague-Taipei sister city agreement. The understanding of Taiwan as a part of China was clearly manifested in this - by urging Prague to respect One China Policy. Here, I also appreciated the author's explanation of how the PRC frames Taiwan as a domestic issue, using it as a tool to encourage rising nationalism. The author also pointed out that the Chinese media are heavily censored and they serve as a major platform for the CCP propaganda, which aims to build and maintain CCP's legitimacy. At the same time, the author interestingly showcases the tendency of the Chinese media to portray the dispute between the Lord Mayor of Prague and President Zeman as a proof that Czech democracy, and by implication all democracies, are chaotic - obviously implicitly pointing out the stability of the PRC governance and creating the image of "Western" as something with negative connotations. Overall, the thesis well illustrates the tendency of the Chinese government to use even insignificant events to propagate One China Principle, to paint the West as anti-China.

In places, the thesis is a bit repetitive, and I believe that some parts could have been left out, e.g. the part where the author describes briefly the Czech media's perception of China or the part where the author describes the Pirate Party's position on the political spectrum, which does not seem to be particularly relevant for the researched topic, but overall, this does not disrupt the flow of the analysis.

6. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

1. How might future developments in China's relations with Central and Eastern Europe affect the narratives you observed in your study?

2. How do you think the portrayal of the Prague-Beijing-Taipei issue in Chinese media reflects broader trends in China's foreign policy and domestic public opinion?

7. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA  
(A a B výborně, C a D velmi dobře, E dobře, F nevyhověl):

The thesis of Yijin Wang fulfills the requirements for master's theses. I recommend it for defense and propose a final grade A.

Datum: August 27, 2024

Podpis: Jana Sehnálková

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Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.