



REVIEW OF BACHELOR THESIS

Review type: Opponent's Review

Author of the bachelor thesis: Yashar Isgandarov

Title: "Comparative Analysis of Media and Free Speech Policy-Formulation in Semi-Democratic Contexts: A Case Study of Georgia and Moldova"

Author of the review: Doc. PhDr. Pavol Frič, Ph.D.

1) *Factual benefits of work and its added value;*

This bachelor thesis provides credible insights into a range of factors that shape public policies on media, access to information and freedom of expression. The thesis is not just a description, but analyses its subject of interest against the background of various theoretical concepts of public policy formation.

Even if some of the findings are just a repetition of already known facts, which the author himself identified in the literature, the insights gained add credibility to them. Perhaps the author could have placed more emphasis on trying to verify or test these known findings in his analysis.

2) *Setting and answering research questions;*

It is right that the author's ambition is to provide insights into the whole complex of factors that influence public policy in a given area. To do so, he uses the different perspectives offered by public policy analytical approaches such as Multiple Streams Theory, Policy Windows and Framing. However, the complex goals he has set himself do not fully match his research questions, which focus only on framing. So, in the end, the author answered far more questions than he set out to answer.

The logical compatibility of the objectives and questions is not helped by the ambiguity of the objectives of the comparison of the two countries under study. It is not entirely clear what the purpose of identifying differences and similarities in the policies of the two countries is.

3) *Structure of work;*

The thesis begins with an extensive introduction, in which the author includes the focus and objectives of his work. This is followed by a Literature Review chapter, which is the State of the Art in the field. Then the structure of the thesis is standard.

4) *The factual accuracy and convincing of the argumentation;*

The logical construction of the thesis and the argumentation chosen by the author is always based on a theoretical or methodological concept through which the subject is viewed. This gives his argument an academic persuasiveness.



5) ***Sophistication and application of theoretical approaches;***

The author uses several theoretical approaches of public policy to guide his analysis. With one exception, he describes and applies all of them correctly. This exception is framing analysis, which lacks its theoretical anchorage in the thesis. In short, Framing theory is not mentioned in the theoretical part of the thesis.

On the contrary, the author describes the theory: "three media systems models", but does not base his analysis on this concept.

6) ***Methodological approach and application of particular methods and approaches;***

I consider the methods used by the author in his analysis to be appropriate and their application to be correct. However, I miss a more comprehensive description of "document analysis".

7) ***Use of literature and data;***

I consider the use of literature, except that concerning FramingTheory, to be sufficient. I appreciate that the author conducted his own empirical research and thus obtained relevant data for his analysis.

8) ***Stylistic and text editing (quote, text layout, etc.).***

I consider the academic style of writing to be appropriate to the demands of writing a bachelor's thesis.

For the above reasons, I recommend the diploma thesis for the defense.

My grading is "B".

Date: 2. 9. 2024

Signature: