



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

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

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: Ishita Challapalli
Student's ID: 97924668

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: Media and Area studies
Study ID: 754243

Title of the thesis: Cultural identity representation in mainstream Indian cinema (Bollywood) and south Indian films
Thesis department: Department of Media Studies (23-KMS)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Gerardo Costabile Nicoletta, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): Sadia Zamir, M.A.
Date of defence: 18.09.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of the examination: Ishita Challapalli defended her thesis “Cultural identity representation in mainstream Indian cinema (Bollywood) and south Indian films.”
First, she introduced her thesis topic and its importance, focusing on representation of stereotypes of identities. She located her research in postcolonial studies paradigm. She explained her choice of theories, methods, and execution of her analysis. She highlighted the concept of victimhood as a central notion in her results. She discussed use of CDA as her method. She compared the way how Bollywood stereotypes Southern India differently compared with the moviemakers from the Southern India itself.
The committee then presented the supervisor’s review, suggesting the evaluation of “C”. He provided generally positive remarks. On the other hand, he noted not really developed of the literature review, descriptive presentation of the material, and some formal weaknesses. He asked about stereotypes, cultural homogenization, marginalized and subaltern identities, and South Indian negotiation of cultural identities in face of Bollywood.
The committee then presented the opponent’s review, suggesting the evaluation of “A”. The committee picked the question about the use of the CDA.
The student then discussed the issues raised by the reviewers and the questions posed by the committee, including the use of her choice of the CDA and her focus on power dynamics, and also the issue of cultural homogenization.
Based on the thesis, the reviews and the defense, the committee decided to evaluate the thesis with the grade B.

Result of defence:	excellent (B)	
Chair of the board:	Jiráček Jan, prof. PhDr., Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Štoll Martin, prof. MgA., Ph.D. (present)
	Nečas Vlastimil, PhDr., Ph.D. (present)