



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Posudek školitele na disertační práci Terezy Jiroutové Kynčlové

“Chicana Literature: A Feminist Perspective of Gloria Anzaldúa’s Identity Politics”

My supervision of Tereza’s PhD dissertation has a long history. Tereza began her PhD studies on 21 September 2006 and over the years of her studies and her three years of maternity leave, she grew and developed into a fully mature scholar and academic with a well-established career and impressive academic publication record. So, the narrative goes as follows:

Having started in 2006, Tereza spent a whole term (from February to May) in 2008 researching her topic at the best of all places in the world, at the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied the extensive Gloria Anzaldúa archive. On 22 September 2009 she took her final examination and began finalising her first version of the PhD dissertation. Work on this was interrupted for family reasons and Tereza spent three years on maternity leave („uznaná doba rodičovství”) from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2016. As her publication record testifies, during that time she certainly was not inactive in the academic field, and when she resumed her PhD studies on 1 October 2016 she easily managed to finish her PhD dissertation in the provided time and submit in March 2017. Tereza also works at the Metropolitan University and is a very active member of the Department of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University. Again, her publication record testifies to the fact how active as an inspiring teacher and independent academic she is.

Moreover, very soon another prestigious title will be added to Tereza’s record. Parts of Chapters 2 and 3 of the submitted dissertation will be published by Palgrave early next year in a book called *Transgressing the Limit: Borders, Liminality, and Queer Identity*, edited by D. Wincock and J. Decker.

Supervising Tereza was indeed a great pleasure. She was always willing to incorporate my suggestions and in her turn came up with the most intriguing solutions to the most intricate problems. As mentioned above, Tereza has, over the years, developed into a mature

and fully independent scholar and I think this is perceptible in her immense study of what I will dare call the Chicana literary phenomenon. Tereza is capable of moving intelligently between socio-cultural history, social politics, gender politics and literary theory – from close textual analysis to sweeping general assessments of historical traditions and cultural myths. Her dissertation is indeed multidisciplinary, but also displays an acute awareness of the intricacies of contemporary feminist politics of a very specific, localised identity.

Tereza is, I believe, a very good writer. Though sometimes her syntax is rather compound and lengthy, the text reads well and also displays a certain elegance in its articulations, which helps her do critical justice to the complicated ideas she pursues in her account. Her arguments are well-conceived and well-constructed with textual support wherever necessary.

In conclusion, I am convinced that the dissertation constitutes a substantial contribution to the scholarly discussion of literary studies and identity politics. The detailed treatment of her material combined with a synthetic and flexible methodological approach produce a valuable text. The originality and quality of argumentation are on a very high level. Therefore, I recommend the dissertation for defence.

Doporučuji práci k obhajobě.

V Praze 25.7.2017

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PhDr. Soňa Nováková, CSc., M.A.

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