

Euroculture Thesis Assessment Form



Name of Student: Marion Wierzbicki

Thesis Title: Biodynamic Farming and Nutrition and the Conscious Evolution of Consumer Society.

Home University: Jagiellonian University, Kraków

Name of supervisor: Marcin Galent

Host University: Palacky University, Olomouc

Name of Supervisor: Gaudenz B. Assenza

In this report, please consider the following, by answering the following questions:

1) Problem statement, method and theory:

- a) The aims and objectives of the thesis – are these clearly identified and explained? Is there a well formulated problem statement? Briefly explain.

Yes, the Author states quite clearly what her aims are. She is interested in presenting biodynamic agriculture as a solution to many problems related to farming in the context of an environmental crisis. The more definite questions that arise from the initial formulation of the key problems are also very clearly stated. The reader goes into these more definite questions well prepared by the Author, with clear expectations and his curiosity is rewarded by the Author's explanations.

- b) Has a suitable methodology and theoretical frame been taken to solve the stated problems?

This is a rather weaker part of the thesis as there is nearly no attempt to produce a relevant theoretical frame related to the second part of the thesis title. As a consequence, the thesis focuses mainly on biodynamic farming and less on matching this agricultural and cultural phenomenon with the realities of consumer societies.

- c) Does the conclusion provide convincing answers/proof to the initial questions/hypotheses?

Partly, the Author demonstrates high degree of knowledge about biodynamic farming in France in Europe but it is not sufficiently confronted with challenges of a consumer society.

- d) Does the research constitute an original contribution to the field of knowledge in this field or domain?

Definitely. I regard as very valuable the detailed description of the evolution of the biodynamic farming in the western societies.

- e) Is the research problem and the discussion of it of sufficient complexity for an MA level?
Yes!

2) Structure:

- a) Is the thesis coherently structured?

The work is very well structured.

- b) Are concepts clearly introduced and explained, and critically and consistently applied?
Yes. Especially with regards to these areas which have to do with farming and its cultural and philosophical underlying.

3) Sources (primary and secondary):

- a) Has (enough) relevant (primary and secondary) literature been adequately interpreted and integrated into the thesis?

Definitely.

- b) Is the bibliography/list of references complete and accurate?
Yes. I wish to underline the variety of sources she uses.

4) Stylistics:

- a) Is the use of language (English) acceptable and of the required standard (i.e. no spelling mistakes and typos, range of vocabulary, grammar)?

The command of English shown by the non native speaker is very impressive.

- b) Are references in the text given in a coherent and consistent manner (either in-text or as footnotes)?
Yes.

5) Format:

- a) How is the thesis presented (i.e. consistency in lay-out, choice of fonts, headings, tables and graphs)?

The thesis is neatly and nicely organized. The format helps the reader to follow the Author's argument.

6) General:

- a) Have recommended revisions been executed to a satisfying degree?
Yes. The Author duly introduced all suggested and corrections.

- b) To what degree has the student been able to work independently?
The work is a piece of a very independent endeavour.

- c) Any other relevant comments.

(National) Grade: Good plus (4.5)

ECTS Grade: B

Date and place: 4 October 2012

Signature: Marcin Galent