

Review of Master work reviewer

Name and Surname of Student	Judith Marie ALMS
Qualification Work Title	The Problem of Regional Identity in Vorpommern
Name and Type of Study Programme	Regional and European Project Management / Navazující
Faculty / Department	Ekonomická fakulta / KRM
Supervisor	Lapka Miloslav, doc. PhDr. CSc.
Reviewer	Prof. Dr. Thomas Johnen

Thesis evaluation

1. Importance and difficulty of the topic 1.0

Note: see below

2. Logical structure of the thesis 1.5

Note: see below

3. Fulfillment of objectives 1.0

4. Methodological approach 1.0

Note: see below

5. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis 1.0

Note: see below

6. Handling of literature 1.0

Note: The bibliography is very interdisciplinary (Sociology, History, Geography) up-to date, well-chosen and presented according to norms for academic publications.

7. Formal aspects 1.0

Note: see below

Conclusion

Thesis evaluation (note): **excellent**

I recommend the thesis for defence: **YES**

Questions and comments

Critical comments and overall contributions, total value of the thesis

1. Importance and difficulty of the topic

The topic is very important due to the problems of regional development in Vorpommern after the German reunification and the administrative restructuring of Pomerania after World War II. The topic is complex: theories of (regional) identity, different geographical, spatial planning, and historical aspects must be considered as well as the views of the population and the stakeholders.

2. Logical structure of the thesis

The overall structure is excellent. The basic notions of the topic are well defined and discussed. The methodological framework is explained with most of the necessary details, but could have been presented better, discussing it more in depth.

4. Methodological approach

The different methods (qualitative interviews, visual ethnography) are very well employed. 15

interviews have been conducted and analysed qualitatively in a very convincing way. This analysis is completed by a photo booklet of more than 60 pages were key citations about the regional identity a related to photos of Loitz and the environments.

5. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis

The results of the qualitative interviews give deeper insights in the question of the regional identity than it would be possible by an quantitative analysis. The visual ethnographic methods open a better understanding of the interviews, especially the relationship between regional identity and the landscape.

Total value of the thesis

In an overall evaluation, this Master's thesis is an excellent case study. The author has shown, that she is able to analyze the context of a project in an interdisciplinary way and conduct empirical qualitative research in order to shed light on relevant questions which surge with a concrete project. Furthermore, this Master's thesis is an excellent introduction into the question of Regional identity in Vorpommern in general. The author approaches the subject from an interdisciplinary point of view by taking in consideration historical, geographical and space planning aspects. The case study of the project is well chosen. The same is true for the interviewees (population and stakeholders). The interviews are well analyzed, so that it is possible to get different views of the analyzed project, which is important in order to be able to understand the multiplicity of voices and opinions in the real society and among the stakeholders. The combination of qualitative interviews and visual ethnography is not only very creative, but an excellent approach to reach a better and deeper understanding. The interviews are presented in their translation to English in the annexes (60 pages of translated transcripts!). The categories of analysis of the interviews are made also graphically transparent in the annexes. With regard to the transcriptions of the interviews, I would like to add, that - even if the way in which the interviews are presented in this Master's thesis is very common in social sciences - in my opinion a basic transcript of the interviews in the original language with an aligned English translation would have been preferable.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

1. How did you chose the interviewees who represent the voices of the population of Loitz?
2. What your Master's thesis could have lost by presenting only the translations of the transcriptions of the interviews in a written language style? Or do you see advantages?
3. You mention that it would be worthy for further studies to analyse the relationship between Low German and the regional identity. It is interesting that this subject is not mentioned by the stakeholders, but only by the interviewed population. Even if in your data there are only a few hints (some in the interviews, one in the photo booklet p. 29: Ons Dörphus), what is your intuition about this relationship?

Date: Sep 22, 2020

Signature of reviewer