



## POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

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Studijní obor: **Bohemistika – Anglická a americká literatura**

Název práce: **Forming Identity in Jennifer Egan's Novels**

Autorka práce: **Bc. Tereza Kouklíková**

Vedoucí diplomové práce: **doc. PhDr. Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.**

Oponentka diplomové práce: **doc. PhDr. Mariana Machová, Ph.D.**

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### Short characteristics of the thesis

The present diploma thesis focuses on the question of identity and its forming in the novels of Jennifer Egan, a major contemporary American writer. First, the thesis characterises the conception of identity in literature in general, then situates this concept in individual phases of Egan's writing, taking into account the legacy of post-modernism and the arrival of the contemporary trend sometimes called "post-postmodernism". In the second part, the thesis discusses individual novels by Egan and in each of the interpretations it pays special attention to the problem of identity.

### Overall assessment

First it needs to be stressed that Tereza Kouklíková's thesis builds on the author's previous work, a very fine bachelor thesis on death in Michael Cunningham. Both the topic (identity) and the writer (Egan) represent continuation of a very serious interest in contemporary American literature on the part of Tereza. The author of the thesis has solid theoretical background, which makes it easy for her to put the analysed topics in a wider context. Her bachelor thesis manifested a great capacity for close and sensitive reading, which is something that we find in the present work as well. The individual novels are analysed in detail and depth. The text is well written and provides a number of valuable insights into Jennifer Egan's oeuvre.

I have a single reservation though. While the thesis was in the making I objected to the division between "theoretical" and "practical" parts (whatever these are) and I still maintain this objection. I do believe that such a division very rarely makes sense and indeed Tereza's thesis would have been better had the general theoretical discussion been integrated directly into the analyses of individual novels. I do realise that to divide theory and practice made the job easier but then again Tereza is surely capable enough to manage such a project.

I do recommend the thesis for defence and suggest that it be marked excellent.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

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22.8.2021

Datum

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Podpis