

Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Department of Photography

Assessment of the Bachelor's Thesis

Author of thesis: Leevi Toija

Title of thesis: Aleksei Gastev and his relevance in art practice

Assessment of the primary advisor

Assessment of the opponent

Author of the assessment (first name, last name, workplace): Tomáš Dvořák, KF
FAMU

Evaluation of the content and final form of the thesis (A/excellent – B/very good –
C/good – D/good with objections – E/satisfactory – F/unsatisfactory – not
recommended for defence)

Suitability of the selected objective and work approach.....	B
Relative completeness of the literature used for the selected topic.....	B
Ability to critically evaluate and use scholarly literature.....	C
Logicality of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....	A
Language and stylistic level of the thesis.....	B
Compliance with citation norms (should the text repeatedly contain adopted passages without citing the source, the work cannot be recommended for defence).....	C
Sufficient extent of image attachments, justifiability and suitability of attachments, graphic layout.....	B
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the development of the field of study.....	C
Overall evaluation of the thesis.....	B

Verbal evaluation of the thesis including questions that the candidate must address in
his/her thesis defence:

Leevi Toija's bachelor thesis focuses on the life and work of the Russian avant-garde
artist, activist and pioneer of scientific management Alexei Gastev. Toija presents a
short sketch of Gastev's life, summarises his contributions to poetry and journalism
and focuses especially on his trade-union work, development and applications of
scientific management and ideas of biomechanics. He also compares Gastev's work to
some of his Russian contemporaries and to Italian futurism.

One of the drawbacks of the thesis is that draws exclusively on secondary sources and
also depends heavily on them. There is no original research, although I understand
that primary sources are rarely available in translation.

Some kind of justification or explanation of contemporary relevance of Gastev's work
would be much appreciated.

What surprised me most, however, is the complete omission of the role photography and film played in scientific management. This is a fascinating chapter in the history of applied, quasi-scientific imaging – the Russian NOT-movement (both TsIT and Liga vremia) made use not only of Taylor’s ideas but also of the work of Frank and Lillian Gilbreth, who analysed work procedures and movements through motion studies and time-lapse and stroboscopic photography. It would be extremely valuable to investigate the Russian contribution to motion studies of work and compare them with their American inspiration.

All in all, Toija’s thesis is a concise, clearly conceived and well-written intellectual biography, I recommend it for defence and suggest B as the final grade.

Date:4/6/2021.....

Signature:..........