

OPPONENT'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

Thesis title: 08. Bún bò Nam Bộ
Thesis author: Mike Ma
Programme of study: Photography
Programme type: Master's

Definition of objectives and their fulfilment:

B

Topicality of the thesis topic (and relevance of the selected methodology in the case of a Master's thesis):

A

Scholarly contribution, originality of the thesis, and its utilisation in practice:

A

Logical construction and structuring of the thesis:

B

Formal requirements and requisite contents of the thesis, including its length:

A

Work with information sources:

A

Level of language, style and terminology:

A

Evaluator's overall summary:

Mike Ma's thesis is original and, so to say, entertainingly revelatory. Author follows twisted history and contemporary connotations of a locally popular Vietnamese (?) dish of Bún bò Nam Bộ. Of course, Ma does so to engage reader with a curious, double exotic culinary drama (Czechia meets Vietnam), but Bún bò Nam Bộ helps him at the same time to undermine simplistic ideas about cultural ownership and appropriation respectively. Search for Bún bò Nam Bộ's "true identity"

appears to be similarly futile as the search for a “true identity” of a Czech Vietnamese (or a Vietnamese Czech?).

What I find somewhat problematic about Ma`s thesis is that it does not entirely deliver what it promises, that is a text that is primarily about *pictures* of Bún bò Nam Bộ. The section dedicated to “food photography” is really about the food photography in general and very little about the photographic presentation of his dish of interest. The discussion of distinct visuality of Vietnamese bistros could also go much deeper.

Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:

How would you explain distinct choice of colours in Vietnamese bistros` signboards, menus, or leaflets?

**Recommendation of the thesis
for the oral defence:** yes
Recommended grade: A
**Date of elaboration of this
assessment:** 6. 1. 2024

Josef Ledvina

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Name of the thesis opponent

2. 6. 2024



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(date and signature)