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REPORT

By Member of the Dissertation Committee on
the Dissertation of

WANG Weixia on the theme:

“Russian-Chinese Cooperation in the Field of
Television Broadcasting (On Materials of the
Channel of the Central Television of China-
Russian),”

Submitted in conformity with the requirements
for the candidate degree in philological sciences
Specialisation 10.01.10 – Journalism

Having now fully read the English-language version of the above-mentioned doctoral thesis by Wang Weixia in full (pages 241-456), I am ready to complete my report, I am ready to offer a series of observations and draw conclusions concerning the academic quality of the work. The identified subject of the thesis on page 251 is the operational activity of the TV channel CCTV-Russian within the wider context of Chinese and Russian information cooperation and collaboration (among journalists and media outlets). The stated purpose of the thesis's research is “to identify the characteristics of the TV channel “CCTV-Russian”, to determine the trends of strengthening the prospects for the development of Chinese-Russian partnerships in the media sphere” (page 251). The structure and the content of the thesis worked towards clarifying these points.

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The thesis is structured in a logical and consistent manner, there is an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and literature list. Chapter one covered the topic of “Russian-Chinese cooperation in the sphere of mass media: Genesis and evolution”, chapter two on “Cooperation between Chinese and Russian media at present” and chapter three dealt with “CCTV-Russian as a representative of the media cooperation between China and Russia.” The period of the study is beginning from the year 1920 until the year 2017 (page 253), which marks the point of the very start of media cooperation between China and the Soviet Union until the present time. Furthermore, Wang was active in various conferences as a young researcher and published a respectable tally of nine academic works.

In order to analyse and make sense of the vast amounts of empirical data that is presented in the thesis, Wang choose to use the following tools – comparative historical method, system analysis, comparative and graphical methods, normative method, content analysis, and the method of typology and classification. The research methods of a number of named Russian academics within the field of journalism and mass communications (especially from St Petersburg State University) were identified as informing the theoretical basis of the research. These were then, to varying degrees, applied to the empirical data throughout the thesis. Empirical data was derived from the programme content of the CCTV-Russian channel and some communication interactions with personnel from media outlets. As such, a significant amount of original empirical material is presented to the reader.



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Early on in the introduction the reader is introduced to some pre-existing research on the topic of the thesis by Chinese and Russian researchers. This background research overview on the current state of the art research does sufficiently establish the context, position and contribution of this thesis to developing information and knowledge on the topic that goes beyond the existing base. The candidate does clearly establish the unique nature and contribution of the work in terms of the aspects of the empirical data presented, and the operational descriptions and implications of the performance in collaboration and cooperation between China and Russia within mass media and journalism.

There are various positive aspects, which have been identified in the above text. This is a unique work that contributes to a greater understanding of the subject topic, which is relatively understudied within the wider academic community. Another very positive aspect is the clarification of the unique Chinese approach to international communications in terms of the rhetoric and concepts used, which are neither Russian nor Western, but unique and not often understood by outsiders. The writing style is generally clear and easily understood, in spite of some minor issues with the English language (such as the use of the term “fourth power” on page 243, in English this is fourth estate, fourth power is a direct translation from Russian language).



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A number of other issues do also exist in the thesis. For example, on page 251 there seems to be an error in the numbering system under the number of tasks to be solved. It begins with the number seven and eight, before resuming with 3-6 on page 252. Another issue is that the thesis is heavily focused upon the operational and empirical aspects of the issue, to some extent, at the cost of a more detailed and significant understanding of the theoretical implications and significance of the findings. This is partly a product of the nature of the subject of the study, which creates a ‘natural’ bias in this direction. It is also a product of the need for a more consistent and more thorough application of the theoretical tools for the large quantity of empirical data. And last, but not least, there are better theoretical tools to use in order to get more from the data. For example, the use of theory from the fields of intercultural communication and public diplomacy with an emphasis on international broadcasting, would have likely yielded better results and more easily.

The dissertation meets the basic requirements established by Order No. 6821/1 of 1 September 2016, “On the Procedure for Awarding Academic Degrees at Saint Petersburg State University,” the candidate Wang Weixia deserves the award of the scientific degree of Candidate of Philology in the speciality 10.01.10. – Journalism. Clause 11 of the aforementioned Order by the author of the thesis is not broken.

18.03.2020

Member of the Dissertation Council

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden,

Associate Professor Greg Simons



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