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REPORT

By Member of the Dissertation Committee on the
Dissertation of

**Olga Vyacheslavovna VVEDENSKAYA on the
theme:**

**“Intergenerational Conflict in Russian Mass
Media”**

**Submitted in conformity with the requirements for
the candidate degree in philological sciences**

**Specialisation 5.9.9 – Media Communication and
Journalism**

Having read the doctoral dissertation of Olga Vvedenskaya in the English-language version, pages 200-380, I am ready to offer a series of observations and draw conclusions concerning the academic quality of the work. The thesis concerns the representation and interpretation of different types of intergenerational conflict in selected Russian mass media outlets in the period 2010-2021. The topic is at the intersection of several different academic disciplines, which includes among others historical memory, sociology, journalism, psychology, ethics, culture and identity studies. This thesis is very informative, easy to follow and the text written in an easy to digest format. A very rich set of data from Russian sources (1025 media texts) are used to illuminate the use of intergenerational conflict in terms of approach to cover the stories, the nature of the reporting and the intended or desired outcomes of those conflicts.

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This thesis in general is a significant achievement of academic endeavour that is well considered and executed by Olga Vvedenskaya of this topic, which places the work to offer a potential contribution to the existing state of the art knowledge. The structure of the thesis is logical and maintains a good flow for the reader with an introduction and conclusion, two chapters and reference list. Furthermore, the actual topic, which are all very well described and justified in the very beginning of the thesis. The selected method and approach are appropriate for the aims and goals of the thesis. However, the theory is insufficiently articulated and justified for the reader, seemingly in an unclear. There is a heavy and disproportionate over reliance on the works of Shamis, which is a weakness owing to the lack of scientific elaboration and substance. Further motivation and justification of the selected theory is required. The research objectives, subject and findings are stated on pages 204-211 are realistic and well considered from the point of view of developing academic knowledge on the chosen topic. Research questions and scientific foci of the research object and subject are identified on pages 230-231. Thus the justification for the theme of the thesis is clear, consistent and well justified overall.

The thesis is generally written in a strong and convincing manner in terms of the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data and materials presented. There is an evident and well integrated use of conceptual interpretation and analytical analysis of the empirical data, which is a key strength of this academic work. A great deal of material has been thoroughly worked in to the structure of the thesis, it is done so in a systematic and yet uncomplicated format. A multi-varied and multi-level analysis of the media texts on intergenerational conflict is revealing some clear trends and patterns in the empirical data. There is a clear logical, and useful classification



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of mass media typologies, generational groupings, types and forms of intergenerational conflict. Good complimentary use of Russian and Western academic literature was used by the author.

There are some other minor points of weakness in the thesis that can be highlighted to allow the author to learn in the future career to help them improve what is an original work of high quality academic research and academic writing. So these points should be taken in the spirit of an intended constructive criticism of an academic work of good standard. These remarks and comments do not appear in any specific order. There seem to be some problems at times with the translation of some specific words in the thesis, mainly the mislabelling of parts of the thesis, for example the use of “paper” (page 220) rather than a ‘paper’ this scientific work is a doctoral thesis and should be described as such as they differ quantitatively and qualitatively from each other. There are also the appearance of occasional typos, for example on page 237 “Russky Vestnil”, should be Russky Vestnik. There are also evident style and format issues identified, such as on page 309, where problems with footnotes in the main body text are found and a general misalignment of text in the paragraphs.

Perhaps as a substantial point of criticism is concerning the academic contribution of this thesis. It is rightly mentioned that this thesis covers an understudied aspect of mass mediated intergenerational conflict in academia. However, there is no apparent mention in the conclusion as to how this particular study contributes to and advances the current state of the art literature in the wider field beyond this case study. What are the main theoretical conclusions and contributions to challenge, consolidate or build the current state of the art knowledge on the role and effect of media coverage of intergenerational conflict in Russia? Does this differ from the international state of the art



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knowledge and experience? Are the findings of the thesis generalizable or indicative? To solidify and prove the claims to knowledge innovation or creation these points need to be clear for the reader. Further added value could have been realised through briefly adding the author's views on a possible future research agenda based on the new areas of scientific inquiry exposed by the thesis.

In summary, the thesis covers a relatively understudied academic aspect of the mass media coverage of a topic of intergenerational conflict, and how this coverage is (mis)managed by the creators of the text. The strengths of the work far outweigh the weaknesses of it. One of the consistent themes concerning choices refers to the moral dilemmas faced by journalists that require ethical choices. This work contributes to a deeper conceptual and empirical understanding of the nature and practice of mass mediated coverage of different forms of intergenerational conflict, the processes and outcomes.

The dissertation meets the basic requirements established by Order No. 11181/1 of 19 November 2021, "On the Procedure for Awarding Academic Degrees at Saint Petersburg State University," the candidate Olga Vvedenskaya deserves the award of the scientific degree of Candidate of Philological Sciences in the specialty 5.9.9. – Media Communication and Journalism. Clause 11 of the aforementioned Order by the author of the thesis is not broken.

28.11.2022

Member of the Dissertation Council

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

REVIEW

Of the *member* of the dissertation council for the dissertation of Olga Vyacheslavovna VVEDENSKAYA on the topic: "Intergenerational Conflict in Russian Mass Media", submitted for the degree of *candidate* of philological sciences in a scientific specialty 5.9.9. Mass Communication and Journalism.

Dissertation of Olga Vyacheslavovna VVEDENSKAYA on the topic: "Intergenerational Conflict in Russian Mass Media" *meets* the basic requirements established by Order No.11181/1 dd. 19.11.2021 "On the procedure for awarding academic degrees at St. Petersburg State University". The applicant Olga Vyacheslavovna VVEDENSKAYA *deserves* to be awarded the academic degree of *candidate* of philological sciences in a scientific specialty 5.9.9. Mass Communication and Journalism.

. No violations of paragraphs 9 and 11 of the specified Order have been detected.

Member of the Dissertation Council

Academic degree, academic title, position

Dr, Associate Professor, Researcher

Date 28 November 2022

signature



Full name

Greg Simons