

## REVIEW

Of the member of the dissertation council for the dissertation of Berezina Elizaveta on the topic: "Russian Public Diplomacy in Argentina: Institutions and Tools in the Field Culture and Education", submitted for the degree of doctor of Political Sciences in a scientific speciality 5.5.4. —International relations, global and regional studies.

The doctoral thesis addresses a pertinent issue from an academic standpoint, relevant to both the Russian and Latin American academic communities. The analysis undertaken in this research compellingly demonstrates Argentina's significance as a key partner for Russia in matters of cooperation, trade, nuclear energy, and education. Furthermore, it underscores how digital transformations have introduced novel opportunities for collaboration within the realm of public diplomacy, while the vaccine diplomacy during the pandemic reveals Russia's soft power effectively. However, a substantial challenge is identified: the absence of an official bilateral strategy with Argentina curtails the effective promotion of Russian culture within the country.

The thesis engages in a robust and coherent dialogue with academic literature on soft power and public diplomacy. The theoretical framework is appropriately utilized to underpin the research objectives within the specific context of the selected case and the historical conditions that encompass it. The qualitative methodological design is consistent and adeptly aligns with the research problem, supporting the neo-institutional theoretical approach.

The research stands out through its comparative analysis and comprehensive study of formal and informal institutions of Russian public diplomacy in Latin America, with a particular focus on Argentina, notably during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary findings of the investigation are valuable, as they offer recommendations to enhance Russian public diplomacy in Argentina. These recommendations encompass measures to fortify information security, develop a long-term plan for cultural cooperation, augment social media presence, and secure adequate funding.

Similarly, the thesis identifies promising areas of cooperation between Russian and Argentine universities, such as academic mobility and online education. The significance of Russian public diplomacy in Argentina is underscored, with a focus on cultural, political, and humanitarian events, as well as the promotion of Russian education and language. Despite the prevailing challenges in Russian-Argentine relations, the thesis suggests that digital public diplomacy and university collaboration present tangible opportunities to strengthen bilateral ties.

In summary, the evaluated doctoral thesis is a substantial contribution to the academic field of public diplomacy and soft power within the Russian-Latin American context. Its methodological rigor, profound analysis, and practical recommendations render it a commendable contribution. Thus, I recommend the approval of the thesis.

Dissertation of Berezina Elizaveta on the topic: "Russian Public Diplomacy in Argentina: Institutions and Tools in the Field Culture and Education" 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 Berezina Elizaveta deserves to be awarded the academic degree of doctor of Political Sciences in a scientific speciality 5.5.4. —

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International relations, global and regional studies . No violations of paragraphs 9 and 11 of the specified Order have been detected.

Member of the Dissertation Council

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