MUNI

HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	Social Psychology
Applicant	Mgr. et Mgr. Hana Macháčková, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Cyberaggression in Context: Youth Involvement and Responses
Reviewer	Prof. Veronika Kalmus, Ph.D.
Reviewer's home unit, institution	Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tartu

The habilitation thesis entitled "Cyberaggression in Context: Youth Involvement and Responses" by Hana Macháčková consists of 11 previously published academic articles in international peer-reviewed journals or edited collections of papers, and an introductory cover text that summarises and contextualises the main findings presented in the compiled publications.

The selected publications include several articles that have been published in high-ranking international journals of the relevant research fields (e.g., *Journal of Adolescence; Telematics and Informatics; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*). Hana Macháčková has contributed substantially to all 11 papers, being the sole or the first author of 5 publications and the second author of 6 papers.

The publications are either directly focussed on the topic of the habilitation thesis – cyberaggression – or examine the concepts, issues and factors that are related to online interaction in general and, thus, indirectly to cyberaggression as a form of online interaction.

The published papers demonstrate sound empirical scholarship in the field of Social Psychology and the neighbouring (inter)disciplinary areas (e.g., cyberpsychology, media and communication studies, childhood and youth studies) as well as Hana Macháčková's high-level analytical skills and fluency in academic writing.

The set of selected publications, thus, convincingly fulfils requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Social Psychology.

The introductory cover text has, as postulated on p. 4, three main aims: "to provide a comprehensive summary of the selected findings, situate them within existing knowledge, and discuss the further implications and future directions in this discipline". It can be said, without any doubt, that the cover text achieves these objectives. The thesis, furthermore, makes a contribution to the field: it (1) highlights some crucial differences between the experiences with cyberaggression and those endured in offline environments; (2) demonstrates that bystanders

of cyberaggression may face difficulties in the assessment of the events that may hinder their supportive responses; and (3) shows the significance of the extent of the perceived harm and the social environment in responses to cybervictimization, including the application of coping strategies.

The thesis has a further merit: although the author concedes that the "thesis does not aspire to provide in-depth inside into conceptual issues concerning the definition of cyberbullying/cyberaggression" (p. 9), the introductory cover text, nevertheless, includes a clear and concise discussion of the most important conceptual issues, problems and debates related to the definition of cyberaggression *versus* cyberbullying, on the one hand, and the similarities and differences between cyberaggression and offline aggression, on the other.

I can conclude that Hana Macháčková's habilitation thesis provides a good and comprehensive overview of the current state of international research on the selected aspects of cyberaggression and the related conceptual issues. The thesis also highlights the limitations of the compiled studies and points at research gaps as potential and promising aims for further research endeavours.

In being impressed by the richness of the empirical findings presented in the thesis, I was wondering whether the author was considering an elaboration of her own heuristic model to inspire and guide further research, and/or making a conceptual contribution to the field by complementing or upgrading an existing definition, model or typology. Such a bold attempt, regardless of its scope, would have further strengthened this exemplary habilitation thesis.

Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence (number of questions up to the reviewer)

1. Would it be possible and justified, based on your empirical findings and observations and the critical review of the research literature, to suggest any improvement to the existing typologies of the participatory roles in (cyber)aggression?

2. If you were offered an opportunity to write a ground-breaking theoretical book chapter on cyberaggression, including proposing a new and improved conceptual model (considering individual, social and cultural level factors and contexts), how would you approach this task? Which new and/or modified elements, if any, would you include in such a model?

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled "Cyberaggression in Context: Youth Involvement and Responses" by Hana Macháčková **fulfils** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Social Psychology**.**

Date: April 30, 2019   Signature: