

Habilitation Thesis Reviewer's Report

Masaryk University: Faculty of Social Studies: Social Policy and Social Work

Applicant: Mgr. Ondřej Hora, Ph.D.

Habilitation Thesis: 'Youth, Labour Market Insecurity and Institutions'

Reviewer: Bill Jordan

Reviewer's Home Institution: Plymouth University (Hon. Professor of Social Policy and Social Work)

Review Text: The text is based on interviews with 33 subjects, about their youth and early experiences of education, training and employment. It analyses these using methods derived from qualitative research, and drawing on publications in the Czech Republic and in several E.U. states, as well as the U.K. and U.S.A. It conducts a valuable review of how social policy and social work have influenced interventions in the lives of these citizens, including those from the Roma minority, and how they responded to these systems.

The study casts light on a number of important issues in Czech society. There is clear evidence of how young people who have made a promising start in education can become disillusioned and depressed about their prospects and fail to reach their potential. This is not, of course, unique to the Czech Republic, since de-industrialisation has narrowed opportunities in many European countries, and service-sector employment does not suit all young people, especially young men. There are some useful proposals for how policies and practice might address these issues.

Questions for Habilitation Defence

1. How would the applicant distinguish between and classify interviewees' accounts (versions)?
2. How would the applicant relate these to the interviewees' labour market strategies?
3. Explain the role of private schools in the Czech education system, their funding and access to them?
4. How might the Czech income maintenance system better support young people like the interviewees?

Conclusion

The Habilitation thesis entitled 'Youth, Labour Market Insecurity and Institutions' by Ondřej Hora **fulfils** the requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Social Policy and Social Work.

Date: 24th September, 2021

Signed: W.J.O. Jordan