

## HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

<b>Masaryk University</b>	Faculty of Social Studies
<b>Faculty</b>	Sociology
<b>Procedure field</b>	Adéla Souralová
<b>Applicant</b>	Masaryk University
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Grandchildhood: Practices, Meanings, Relations
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Martina Cvajner – Trento University, Assistant Professor
<b>Reviewer</b>	Department of Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
<b>Reviewer's home unit, institution</b>	

[Review text]

The thesis is clearly written and the research material the applicant has worked with is coherent, rich and interesting. The applicant demonstrates a good knowledge of the literature relevant to the thesis topic.

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

In this section of the I will try to pose some of the questions that arose while I was reading the thesis. Some will be questions, others maybe suggestions on how to improve the work for eventual further steps to undertake.

1. The author treats a very interesting topic that felt a bit distant from the reality I am accustomed to. For instance, I really have no knowledge of a similar situation in the social reality I inhabit. So, I had a curiosity whether what she describes might be typical of a geographical region she worked in? Is it more typical of a city? Or would it be as widespread also in the suburbs and/or village. A multigenerational living is something that feels very outdated in Italy...and, to my knowledge also very rare – almost impossible to achieve – in most western societies today. It's very likely that people have kids far from the area they were born in and grew up in. That is to say that geographical mobility – for the parents' cohort I imagine the author worked with (i.e. the parents of the grandkids she interviewed) – is very high (ex. moving for university studies and/or jobs). This is true also when it comes to demographic dynamics: people claim they have fewer kids also because of the lacking (institutional and/or family) support.
2. Linked to question 1, the author clearly explains (p. 42/43) that a multigenerational cohabitation is not driven by economic need. Subsequently, what drives it? I see several options that somehow might intersect:
  - a. It's nice to have your grandparents around – I learn a lot from them
  - b. The grandparents are with us because when we were young, they took care of us (grandchildren) and the house while our parents worked
  - c. Homeownership in the area is very costly, so my parents moved in with my grandparents (or the other way around)
  - d. My grandparents moved in because they felt lonely

- e. My grandparents lived with us as they were starting to have health issues
  - f. In the country there are few and/or costly institutions for young kids and therefore grandparents are a necessity
  - g. In this country its customary
  - h. Etc. many many others
3. Stemming from question 2, it's natural to ask whether multigenerational living is a true a rational choice or it's a choice that it's been driven by co-occurring factors. And, depending on the answer – how is it linked to the area/city/country the researcher worked in? Or, how is it different from the surrounding areas (i.e. comparatively culturally similar: ex. Slovak republic, Hungary, Poland, etc.)?
  4. Being a migration scholar, I cannot but keep thinking whether the author encountered virtual grandparenting, and transnational grandparenting. It's a topic strongly felt in Eastern Europe and I wonder how and if this would make sense to a wider research question the researcher might have stumbled in.
  5. Lastly, even if I assume this is customary in your institution, I somehow missed a clearly written – separate – methods chapter. The author reports the number and gender of the interviewees...but lacks, for example, to attach the interview guideline used. Moreover, a clear explanation of how the data were managed – i.e. description of the coding (was there any?), etc. All these, when prepared in a methods chapter, would have given strength to the whole research. I would invite the researcher not to undermine it in the future.

## Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled Grandchildhood: Practices, Meanings, Relations by Adéla Souralová **fulfils** the requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of the social sciences.

Date: February, 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Signature:

