

MINUTES OF THE EVALUATION COMMISSION MEETING

appointed to carry out the mid-term evaluation of a PhD student

1. Full name of a PhD student:

Sara Riccetti

2. Date of commencement of education:

academic year 2021/2022

3. ORCID:

0000-0002-5283-8054

4. Scientific discipline:

Literary studies

5. The planned title of the doctoral dissertation:

‘Sovereign Performances:’ Indigenous Women’s Theatre and the Legal and Political Work of Decolonization in the U.S. and Canada

6. Name and last name of a PhD supervisor(s), degree or scientific title:

Professor Giorgio Mariani, Department of European, American and Intercultural Studies, University of Rome La Sapienza

Dr hab. Eugenia Sojka, Institute of Literary Studies, University of Silesia

7. Name and last name of the auxiliary supervisor (if designated):

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8. Members of the mid-term Evaluation Committee:

1) Chair of the Committee (name and last name, degree or scientific title, position)

Paweł Jędrzejko, dr hab., prof. UŚ (University of Silesia in Katowice)

2) Member of the Committee (name and last name, degree or scientific title, position)

Paolo Simonetti, prof. (University of Rome La Sapienza)

3) Member of the Committee (name and last name, degree or scientific title, position)

Cheryl Suzack, prof. (University of Toronto)

4) Member of the Committee (name and last name, degree or scientific title, position)



Rafał Boryslawski, dr hab., prof. UŚ (University of Silesia in Katowice)

9. Date of presentation at the meeting of the Scientific Council of the Institute of the relevant discipline

15 December 2023

10. Date of mid-term evaluation of a PhD student

21 December 2023

11. Questions posed to the PhD student (both at the second stage, at the Scientific Council meeting of the Institute of the relevant discipline, and at the third stage):

1. What is the role of the humanities framework in the Candidate's methodology?
2. What challenges does the Candidate envisage in her further research?
3. What strategies to overcome possible challenges will the Candidate adopt?
4. Has the input provided by the double-blind Referees of the Candidate's recent publications impact the directions or angles of the Candidate's global PhD research? Does the Candidate believe that the peer comments have added new sensitivities or suggested new dimensions for her study?
5. How is theatre unique as a medium in the context of legal-literary studies?
6. Does the Candidate perceive her doctoral project as leading to a larger study in the future?

12. The Evaluation Committee, acting on the basis of Article 19 of the Resolution No. 75 of the Senate of the University of Silesia in Katowice of January 26, 2021 on defining the Regulations of the Doctoral School at the University of Silesia in Katowice has conducted a mid-term evaluation of:

Ms. Sara Riccetti

After reviewing the Individual Research Plan, the written Report on the execution of the educational programme and the execution of the Individual Research Plan, the supervisor's opinion, hearing the presentation at the meeting of the Scientific Council of the Institute of the relevant discipline, having discussion with the PhD student¹ and discussion with the supervisor², the Committee issues the following evaluation:

The result of Ms Sara Riccetti's mid-term evaluation has been voted positive.

RESULT OF MID-TERM EVALUATION (positive/~~negative~~):

13. Vote results:

Number of votes for positive evaluation: 4

Number of votes for negative evaluation: 0

Number of votes abstaining: 0

¹ Cross out if the discussion has not taken place

² Cross out if the discussion has not taken place

14. Remarks

The decision of the Committee was unanimously and enthusiastically positive.

15. Detailed justification of the Commission on the result of the mid-term evaluation (justify the result in detail; under the Act of 20 July 2018. Law on Higher Education and Science [Ustawa z dnia 20 lipca 2018 r. Prawo o szkolnictwie wyższym i nauce], the evaluation result with justification is public and will be published).

Ms Sara Riccetti is a doctoral candidate within the joint programme of doctoral studies between the University of Sapienza in Rome and the University of Silesia in Katowice.

Ms Riccetti's dissertation aims to shed light on the decolonizing and transformative power of selected plays written and produced by Indigenous women in the United States and Canada in the twenty-first century. By focusing on these theatrical works as crucial sites for decolonization and struggles for self-determination, this study seeks to analyze how contemporary Indigenous women playwrights respond to patriarchal, colonial narratives that have historically erased the presence of Indigenous women in both countries' legal and political contexts. Furthermore, the research aims to emphasize the role of theatre and performance arts as complementary platforms that extend and strengthen Indigenous women's activism through critical engagement with legal and cultural discourses.. The supervisors of the dissertation are Prof. Giorgio Mariani and dr hab. Eugenia Sojka, Associate Professor.

Following the rules and regulations of the mid-term evaluation procedure, Ms Riccetti presented her project and reported on the implementation of her Individual Research Plan to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Literary Studies on 15 Dec. 2023. Consequently, she participated in the meeting of the Evaluation Committee on 21 Dec. 2023, which was also attended by Professors Mariani and Sojka. In the course of both meetings, Ms. Riccetti was asked a series of questions related to adopted methodology and its limitations, to the scope of her research, and to her research plans and publication strategies. The profundity and versatility of Sara Riccetti's responses were highly appreciated by both the academic community of the Institute of Literary Studies of the University of Silesia in Katowice and by the members of the Evaluation Committee. Discussions that ensued demonstrated that Ms Riccetti is not only well aware of the ramifications of the adoption of her intersectional and cross-disciplinary methodology, but also proved her impressive expertise in the area of Indigenous Methodologies. Her argumentation met a most positive response of the members of the Council and mid-term Evaluators alike: there is no doubt that Sara Riccetti's competence is unquestionable, that her project progresses very well, and that she is perfectly capable of contributing to the expansion of the state of knowledge within her field both as a researcher and as a propagator of Indigenous methodologies as an eye-opening alternative to the methodologies evolved by the Western scholarly tradition..

In the discussion which followed the meeting of the Evaluation Committee on Dec. 21th 2023, the Evaluators expressed overwhelmingly positive opinions regarding the progress of Ms. Riccetti's work, the implementation of her Individual Research Plan, her work on the doctoral dissertation, her (active!) involvement in numerous conference debates world-wide, as well as her list of publications and publication plans.



Prof. Cheryl Suzack observed that Sara Riccetti's project was as comprehensive as it was impressive, stressing the importance of the Candidate's successful strategy of the integration of Indigenous models of knowledge into the Western thought. Acknowledging the differences between the requirements for the mid-term evaluation in Europe and in North America, prof. Suzack expressed her appreciation for Sara's academic maturity, manifest in her ability to skilfully balance the methodologies of the humanities and of legal sciences, owing to which her project may exert an important impact on the evolution of both fields. Emphasizing Sara Riccetti's competence in the area of Indigenous methodologies and Native American/First Nations' theater, Prof. Suzack also stressed the value of the Candidate's rootedness in the tradition of classical European theatre. She noted that centralizing First Nations' methodologies without decentralizing the European legacy in her thinking, Sara Riccetti opens space for innovation in the area of Western theatre studies.

Prof. Paolo Simonetti emphasized the importance of Ms. Riccetti's project as both socially significant and intellectually stimulating; he pointed out that intersectionality in the context of the contemporary approaches to decolonization is crucial. Paolo Simonetti expressed his satisfaction with the evolution of Sara's research stance, in which the discourses of law-as-storytelling and the discourses of theatre-as-storytelling shed light upon one another, generating possibilities for insight thus far largely overlooked in the Western academia. Albeit focusing on specific questions, it involves the strategy of "bracketing," owing to which elements that are not strictly connected with legal analysis and therefore often left out in the Western context, come into play. Simonetti stressed that Sara's project has the potential of opening the eyes of scholars unfamiliar with Indigenous epistemologies, allowing them to understand how the integration of legal insight into the discourses of cultural and gender studies. Sara Riccetti's method lends itself to being applied to real-life situations, especially those relating to the profound, empathetic understanding of the position of the underprivileged groups with respect to the authority of law.

Prof. Rafał Boryśławski expressed his gratitude to the Candidate for the opportunity of getting to know her excellent project. Impressed at the intellectual quality of Sara's work and the maturity of her responses to the questions posed by the Committee, Prof. Boryśławski emphasized his appreciation of the human dimension of Ms. Riccetti's research: her aesthetic, social, and legal sensitivity is founded upon compassion, which is the essence of the humanities. Hand in hand with her respect and care for the Other, both across cultures and at home, Sara's openness, as prof. Boryśławski observed, is also manifest in her ability to draw conclusions from constructive, friendly criticism, offered her by her peer-referees and senior Colleagues.

At the close of the meeting, the committee invited Ms Ricetti and her supervisors to re-join the session in order to announce the positive result of the evaluation. In conclusion, Prof. Eugenia Sojka and Prof. Giorgio Mariani both expressed their complete satisfaction with the Candidate's responses to all of the questions posed at all stages of the evaluation process, and full confidence in Sara Riccetti's eventual success. Both the Supervisors emphasized the Candidates responsibility, methodological soundness, and perfectionism, both have stressed that working with Sara brings them simultaneously an enormous pleasure and satisfaction, to which all of the Committee members gave Sara Riccetti's a round of applause.

Prof. Jędrzejko concluded the meeting by formally stating that the Committee has decided that the implementation of Ms Riccetti's Individual Research Plan and the current state of her doctoral dissertation meets the criteria of a mid-term evaluation more than adequately and expressed his thanks to all those present.



16. Signatures of the members of the Evaluation Committee

1) (name and last name of the chair, signature)

Paweł Jędrzejko

.....
2) (name and last name of the member, signature)

Paolo Simonetti

.....
3) (name and last name of the member, signature)

Cheryl Suzack

.....
4) (name and last name of the member, signature)

Rafał Borysławski

.....

poświadczenie złożenia podpisów i pieczęci elektronicznych

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poświadczenie złożenia podpisów i pieczęci elektronicznych

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