

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

Faculty of Political Sciences

Belgrade, September 2017

At the meeting of the Department for Social Policy and Social Work, held on 06. September 2017, the Master Thesis Defense Commission (hereby the Commission) for the candidate Bojana Latinović was formed with the following members: Prof. dr Nemanja Džuverović, Teaching Assistant MA Aleksandar Milošević and Assistant Professor dr Jelena Vidojević (academic supervisor). The Council for the Second and Third Cycle of Studies has accepted the proposal made by the Department.

After reading the master thesis, the Commission is submitting the following report.

## **REPORT**

The master thesis of Bojana Latinović entitled "Deconstructing Development – An Epistemology of Key Determinants relevant for Development, Their Persistence and Historical Origins: Case Study of Cameroon" is comprised of 75 pages. Next to the Introduction and the Conclusion, the master thesis has four comprehensive chapters and the list of references.

In the introductory part, the candidate discusses the main reasons for choosing the following topic; she announces the ways in which the research is going to be approached. Afterwards, the candidate explains the academic and scientific goals of the research as well as the potential contribution to the existing theoretical and empirical studies of the realization of the development projects in the postcolonial Africa.

In the first chapter (Demystifying Development), author tend to explain the nature of the very concept of development putting special emphasis on the limitation of the mainstream understandings, because of their "singularity" and the fact that they represent replications of abstract development patterns that should be followed, that are fundamentally based on a one (Western) developmental model. She points that one of the main goals of this thesis it to ascribe a basic importance to the phenomenon of development as a pattern toward which a country becomes a part of "appropriate" culture. Furthermore, during the last decades, development is understood like something natural, objective, that goes beyond politics and cultural difference.

Contrary to this, it is obvious failure of development to articulate both culture and history through capital. At the end science failed to recognize that the very basis of contemporary civilization is accepting the language of ‘civilized’ nations that development speaks. New world order is necessarily connected with economic changes that are interlinked with structures of economy, politics and culture with ambition to create universal framework rather than rethinking the economy from another space. Furthermore, the candidate comprehensively and in details analyzes the creation of the Other which is the very object of development. Without the Other that is in the state of need, there will be no glorification of Western values as the right ones and as well, no need for development industry. This is, at the same time method of shaming the Other and blaming for the growth of the world inequalities.

In the second chapter (International Aid Architecture), the author tries to enlightening the real outcomes of development and the role of the global aid architecture in it. With introducing of imposed institutional structure of foreign aid, this chapter provides an valuable insights in adaptation of the essential machinery of the government and economic environment, more precisely political and economic reform on the Cameroon example and what is international function in both. Furthermore, this chapter will provide insights on management of international development aid and how the development planning and implementation are preceded in complex circumstances.

In the third chapter (Foreign Aid Effectiveness in Cameroon) will be focused on influence of international donor community on national development projects through development assistance using the case study of Cameroon. She raises some of the important questions here, regarding the development cooperation between donor and recipient countries: What are the main motives of rich countries to provide development assistance to African states - moral obligation or diplomatic influence? What motivated the redistribution of development aid to Cameroon, and to what extent international development aid contributed to the development of the country?

The fourth chapter of the thesis (Cameroon Today: Reported Development), represents a brief but quite effective overview of a current state of Cameroon and it development prospects, with a special emphasis on the ways in which intense cooperation with international development organizations has significantly undermined its capabilities to successfully overcome some of the major obstacles standing in the way to the sustainable development.

In the concluding chapter, candidate demonstrates that the main hypothesis, as well as two specific ones has been confirmed. That actually means that candidate showed how development discourse in African states exists for the purpose of obtaining legitimacy for global dominance of Western values and political structures, whereby is this kind of domination enabled with established unaccountable transnational institutions that effectively rule large domain of African economy and society through dominant forms of global development strategies, on the example of state Cameroon. regional differences in state of Cameroon that existed before development era, incurred as a consequence of fundamentally different colonial cultural heritage, languages and levels of economic development, that are disabling the state ability to follow imposed institutions and patterns discursive practices (programs and projects) as well as implementation of concrete development agendas of transnational institutions and official development organizations, lead to dependency instead of improving living conditions.

Finally, the Commission is convinced that the candidate Bojana Latinović has shown a deep understanding of complexities that have been following the implementation of the development project in postcolonial Africa, as well as the role that international development aid has been playing in its realisation. Using the case study of Cameroon, the candidate succesfully showed how development assistance has been instrumentalised in achivieng economic, political and geostrategic goals of donor community, while the whole development project became significantly detached from its initial (and official) goals, regarding the imporvemnt of living and working conditions of the people.

Based on this, the Commission concludes that the master thesis "Deconstructing Development – An Epistemology of Key Determinants Relevant for Development, Their Persistence and Their Historical Origins: Case Study of Cameroon" by Bojana Latinović fulfils all the formal criteria for the public defence.

The Commission:

Prof. dr Nemanja Džuverović,

MA Aleksandar Milošević,

Assistant Professor dr Jelena Vidojević