

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE
Faculty of Political Sciences
Belgrade, September 2017

At the meeting of the Department of International Studies, held on 18 May 2017, the Master Thesis Defense Commission (hereby the Commission) for the candidate Vana Filipovski was formed with the following members: Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić Ristanović, prof. dr Radmila Nakarada and prof. dr Nemanja Džuverović. 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.

R E P O R T

The master thesis of Vana Filipovski, entitled “Role of Photography in Process of Reconciliation“ is consisted of 72 pages. Next to the Introduction and the Conclusion, the study has four comprehensive chapters, table of figures, appendix and the list of references.

In the introductory part, the author discusses the reasons for choosing photography as the unit of analysis in terms of its relation to reconciliation processes in post-conflict societies. Here she announces the importance of the research and the lack of the analysis of this topic. In the same time she explains the necessity of restorative methods for process of reconciliation, particularly based on artistic approaches, and emphasises the power of photography and its potential impact on reconciliation. Afterwards, the author explains the academic and scientific goals of her thesis, the research methods and the structure of the study.

In the second chapter (Literature Review and Theoretical Framework) the author firstly defines reconciliation, its main elements and identifies three main stages of this process, as proposed by Bloomfield, Barnes, and Huyse. Moreover, she explains why democracy can be considered an inevitable element of reconciliation processes. Then, the author provides both theoretical framework and empirical examples of creative approaches in reconciliation. In particular, she shows how different kinds of arts, such as music, dance and films can be helpful in recreating relations in broken societies, and offer reason for choosing photography as the focal point of her study. Taking into account theory of aesthetics, methods of visual communication and

cognitive image processing, the study first emphasises the importance that photography had in history by mentioning some of the work of Lewis Hine and Edgar Gardner Murphy, two American documentary photographers. Afterwards, it elaborates the reasons why photography could be seen as a potential influence in the process of reconciliation by explaining its potential use as a universal language, an evidence, a memory, a social construct of reality and an evoker of empathy.

In the following section, the author thoroughly explains the methods that were used for this research. It presents the research question as well as the specific hypotheses which served as guidelines to the work. After that the author explains why she chose the comparative case study method design and what are the main expectations of it.

In the fourth chapter (Case Studies) the author makes the analysis of two cases: Peru and Serbia. They are both analyzed following a three step approach. First, the author introduces the case of Peru with its historical overview of the conflict. Second, the role of major institutions in the process of reconciliation is taken into account. Lastly, photo exhibitions were described including their organization, type of photographs and positive or negative reactions of visitors. The case of Serbia was presented in the same manner. In Peru's case, the institution that played a major role was the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, while in the case of Serbia, that role was divided by state and civil society organizations.

Furthermore, discussion is developed by comparing the two previously presented cases. Differences and similarities were highlighted by using theoretical frameworks mentioned throughout the whole work. Study showed two possible outcome: positive effect and negative effect of photographs' exhibition processes of reconciliation. Indeed, the outcomes showed to be dependent on factors such as type of conflict that previously occurred, socio-historical context of countries, organization of the exhibition and type of photographs that were presented. Case of Peru showed positive correlations between *Yayanapaq* exhibition and reactions of its visitors. In contrast, negative reactions on the exhibition *Blood and Honey* in Serbia showed the other side of the photographs' effect.

In conclusion, the findings of the study are summerized. The author concludes that the study shows the potential for photography to play a role in the process of reconciliation. This conclusion is based on the analysis of presented cases and on theoretical frameworks. However, in order to generalize its use, the candidate stress the need for further researches to be conducted. Therefore, in the last part, she highlights some other questions that the study has raised and potential implications for future researches.

The Commission is convinced that the candidate Vana Filipovski has shown a

deep understanding of the process of reconciliation and the importance of art, particularly photography, for reconciliation in postconflict societies. The Commission is convinced that the candidate showed comprehensive knowledge about relevant theoretical concepts and research methodology, as well as ability for application of general theoretical concepts on individual cases. This enabled her to collect relevant information about conflicts and use of art in general, and photography in particular, as a tool of reconciliation in various countries. Moreover, this enabled her to analyse more deeply use of photography in two very different social and political contexts, Serbia and Peru, and to compare them in a way that lead her to valuable conclusions.

The Commission also asserts that in her thesis the candidate has offered much needed innovative approach to research on reconciliation that may have very important implications for development not only theoretical but also practical approaches to reconciliation in Serbia.

Based on this, the Commission concludes that the master thesis "“Role of Photography in Process of Reconciliation“" by Vana Filipovski fulfils all the formal criteria for the public defense.

The Commission:

Prof. dr Vesna Nikolić Ristanović

Prof. dr Radmila Nakarada

Prof. dr Nemanja Džuverović