

Reader's report

Masaryk university, Faculty of Science

Degree program	Anthropology
Thesis title	Factors influencing isotopic variations in human populations over time in Central Europe: A comprehensive overview
Thesis type	Bachelor's thesis
Author	Ilona Ciganiková
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Reader	Aurelien Tafani, M.Sc., PhD
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Date	08/06/2025

Readers's comment

Give a brief summary of the topic and results of the thesis, comment on important aspects of the thesis, highlight the strengths and point out the weaknesses of the thesis, and make comments for the edification of the student. Adjust the length of the text to meet the needs of the assessment.

The thesis relies on a large corpus of isotopic data (carbon and nitrogen) to explore diachronic and categorical variations in diet among the Prehistoric populations of the Czech Republic and Slovakia through statistical analysis.

The author gives a thorough presentation of the changes in material culture that occurred from the Paleolithic to the Iron Age. For each statistically significant difference between groups, she provides the reader with different hypotheses that could explain the data. The text is well written and well structured. The thesis is very instructive for the reader.

While overall very laudable, I think this thesis may have been improved by explaining succinctly why the statistical approaches used the author were chosen, and, if possible, cite previous works that relied on these techniques to explore similar issues. It would also have been nice to summarize the different factors that could explain the observed variations in isotopic values before discussing the results of the analyses.

Questions for the defence

Please list 1–3 questions that the student will answer during the defense and can form the basis of discussion. Adjust the length of the text according to the needs of the assessment.

1. Are there any changes in the archaeological record (faunal and botanical remains, types of ceramic vessels, and so on) that could suggest that major changes in the diet

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occurred within the time period explored by this thesis? Do they coincide with variations in isotopic values?

2. How were the geographical units of analysis constituted? Do they know correspond to contemporary political formations or to natural ecozones?

Proposal of evaluation

Adequacy of methodology and processing
Description and interpretation of the results
Correctness and completeness of citations
Language and graphic design

Excellent

Excellent

Excellent

Excellent

Did the work fulfill the assignment?

The assignment is obligatory at the beginning of the thesis.

Yes

Is the paper formally a professional text?

Yes

Summary

Excellent work, recommended for defense.

In Bucharest, on 08/06/2025

Enter the text. m.p.