Thesis Title: Bronies: A discourse analysis of the paradoxical nature of gender-stigmatized identity

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In this thesis, Ms. Kozlovská utilizes the theoretical concept of hegemonic masculinity to look at the discourse of a unique group of young men, who are fans of a television show targeted at young girls. She reveals the connections between masculinity and stigmatization, contributing to the sociological study of both gender and popular culture.

Ms. Kozlovská has produced a very good thesis that offers an in-depth discourse analysis of the interviews she conducted with Bronies. She offers a nuanced portrait of the ways in which they conceive of their own identities and she fulfills her research goal, which is “to capture paradoxical nature of masculine identity stigmatized through lack of fulfillment of gender expectations” (Page 7).

Two parts of the thesis deserve special mention. First, the sections on discourse and methodology are refreshingly lucid, using easy-to-grasp analogies. And second, the sub-chapter on stigma (4.1) uses an actual empirical example to talk the reader through the process of analysis, providing transparency and detail.

Our working relationship throughout was fruitful and professional. Ms. Kozlovská delivered all chapters and drafts in a timely manner, always incorporating my feedback constructively. It was a pleasure to work with such a dedicated student.

In sum, this Master’s thesis has all fulfilled the necessary requirements, and I suggest a grade of “B,” with the final evaluation depending, of course, on a successful oral defense.

Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky
Brno, June 8, 2015