

HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

Masaryk University

Applicant

Mgr. Daniel Vázquez Touriño, Ph.D.

Habilitation thesis

Insignificantes en diálogo con el público. El teatro de la generación Fonca

Reviewer

Prof. Jacqueline E. Bixler

Reviewer's home unit, institution

Virginia Tech
Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures/School of Performing Arts

Opponent's Review of the work of Daniel Vázquez Touriño

Dr. Jacqueline Bixler

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Spanish and Director of the School of Performing Arts

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia

jbixler@vt.edu

It is my pleasure to review the thesis/book written by Daniel Vázquez Touriño. In fact, his work relates very closely to my own scholarship on contemporary Mexican theatre. Over the years, we have both worked extensively on the theatre of Emilio Carballido as well as that of the dramatists who are the subject of his book.

I would like to say from the start that *Insignificantes en diálogo con el público* is an outstanding piece of work and a major contribution to the study of Mexican theatre. The author writes extremely well and is very thorough in his research and documentation.

I recently submitted a review of Vázquez Touriño's book to an academic journal for publication here in the United States. In that review, I praise the author for his ability to provide a panoramic view of a generation of Mexican dramatists within the context of theatre at large (US, Europe, Latin America) and over the course of several decades. He has captured in his study an entire generation of pioneering Mexican playwrights who have yet to be studied in depth. As I explain in my review of his book, other scholars have published detailed studies of the generations of dramatists who dominated the stages of Mexico City during the 80s and 90s, but no one had yet studied what the author calls the FONCA generation. This is a group of innovative playwrights who have dominated the stage since the start of the millennium and who have had a profound influence on Mexico's youngest generation of dramatists.

Interestingly, I was recently asked by a graduate student if I could recommend a book that provides a broad picture of contemporary Mexican theatre. At the time I could not, but then I

read Vázquez Touriño's book. That alone is testimony to the significance and relevance of his contribution to our field.

The author presents his work very clearly, with a well-formulated thesis, a logical structure, and a considerable amount of historical, political, and artistic context. In this sense, Vázquez Touriño's work is far superior to that of other scholars such as David Olguín, Luis Mario Moncada, Socorro Merlín, and Armando Partida, whose studies are much more like catalogues of titles and short descriptions. In the US, there have been isolated studies of some of the playwrights included in Vázquez Touriño's book, but to date no one has taken on the task of studying this generation as a whole and pointing out the commonalities that bind them together.

While Vázquez Touriño's book is far-reaching in terms of the number of playwrights and plays that he discusses, he precludes any possibility of superficiality by including three chapters in which he discusses at length the work of the three most prolific and critically acclaimed members of the generation: Edgar Chías, Legom, and Alejandro Ricaño.

Using a methodology best described as eclectic, Vázquez Touriño takes advantage of a number of theorists and critics from Mexico, Europe, and the US to illuminate the texts and their commonalities, which include narraturgy, intermediality, performativity, globalization, and neoliberalism. The bibliography reflects the depth of his investigations. I also appreciate the notes that provide the date and place of the premiere of each play, data that can be very difficult to find. Furthermore, he makes judicious use of quotes from the dramatic texts as well as quotes from theorists, critics, scholars, and the dramatists themselves to support his own observations. I am truly impressed by how thoroughly he has been able to research his topic from such a distance; to my knowledge, he only been able to visit Mexico once or twice.

My one and only criticism of this study is the lack of an index, which would greatly facilitate the search for references to particular plays and playwrights. At the same time, I realize that this may be editorial policy and not necessarily the fault of the author.

Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence (number of questions up to the reviewer)

I have none.

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled *Insignificantes en diálogo con el público. El teatro de la generación Fonca* " by Mgr. Daniel Vázquez Touriño, Ph.D. , **fulfills** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of History of Concrete Literatures (Roman Literatures).

Date: February 10, 2022

Signature: