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REVIEW

of the doctoral dissertation by Dror Krikon, MA:

The Smartphone in the Life of Israeli Youth. From "Virtual Friend" to Addiction.

written under the supervision of dr hab. Witold Wrzesień, professor UAM

Following the decision of the Vice Dean of Scientific Research of the Faculty of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University, announced on January 26, 2023, to appoint me as one of the reviewers of the thesis at hand, I enclose my comments.

The subject of the work is extremely up-to-date and has an important practical dimension for social sciences, including the process of teaching and education. It fits into a broader trend of research on network-holism (Young, 1999; Kaliszewska, 2010; Makaruk, Wójcik, 2014). In the light of research conducted under the Safer Internet plus program and the EU-NED-ADP research project among young people aged 14-17 in European countries, social networking sites are the most common form of online activity. The study carried out in 2011-2012 in Greece, Germany, the Netherlands, Iceland, Poland, Romania and Spain in order to deepen the knowledge base on the risks associated with Internet addiction among European youth showed that 90% of the surveyed youth had at least one profile on the portal social media and spent at least two hours a day on it. Active participation in the virtual world was supposed to alleviate or eliminate the effects of perceived loneliness. It was usually the result of an insufficient level of satisfaction with social interactions (Makaruk, Wójcik, 2014: 8). Today, the virtual world of the Internet fits in the pocket of our pants or purse. Access to social networks or e-mail is easily possible from a smartphone. The multitude of applications and the endless possibilities of our mobile contribute to our gradual dependence on this rectangular object. As the discussed dissertation shows, the problem of smartphone use and