

Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	Mert Kocan
Title of the thesis:	The Evolution Of Turkish Asylum Policy Structures: The Effects Of Europeanization And The Syrian Refugee Crisis
Reviewer:	Dr Karolina Czerska-Shaw (Jagiellonian University in Krakow)

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The research question and sub-questions were clearly stated in the introduction to the thesis and, while providing for a largely descriptive study, had the potential to develop an interesting research project. However, the state of the art was rather weak, and the theoretical framework of Europeanisation only stated and not then sufficiently developed (and then it wasn't clear which definition of Europeanisation the author adopted).

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The author stated that he would use policy analysis and process tracing, and there is some evidence of attempting to do this in Chapter 5. However, the analysis is rather superficial, largely incoherent and lacks in-depth critical analysis. The concept of Europeanisation is inserted here and there, but lacks substance. The major weakness of the thesis is the imprecise, surface explanation and referencing of specific mechanisms, laws, actions, etc that are the basis of the policy analysis (for example: ...'at the European council summit' – not stated which one, when, where, etc, 'refugee acceptance quota' – not correctly stated as the Relocation Mechanism. The EU-Turkey Statement, which is at the heart of the thesis, is very vaguely defined and causes confusion).

Some examples of very broad, uncritical and generalising statements:

Thus, Turkey's willingness to take part in these projects reveals that the Europeanization shapes Turkey's progress in the field.

Turkey pays regard to criticisms and attempts to improve the conditions as quick as its legislation allows. At the end, Turkey signed the readmission agreement for the sake of good order in relations with the EU

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

While there is some evidence in the thesis to suggest that Turkey's asylum laws have followed a process of Europeanisation, and there is due criticism of the securitisation of EU Migration and Asylum policies which goes against its own norms and values, the thesis makes a very tenuous claim that Turkey has gone beyond EU and international standards in terms of accepting refugees, without solid justification of this position.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

This is a very noticeable weakness of the thesis – the coherency, flow and logic falls short of the expectations of an MA thesis. Some references have pages numbers, others don't, and some references don't coincide with the timeframes depicted (the use of sources from the 1990s in describing current events, etc). There are many typos and grammatical errors.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The strength of the paper lies in the stated research question and sub-questions, which offer the potential for interesting research. The topic itself is timely, the thesis attempts to study this issue from a lesser-known and lesser-studied perspective. The paper thus starts off with high aims, but then falls short in its delivery, offering only a superficial and disjointed analysis of the process of policy development and critique of current EU-Turkey policy actions.

Grade (A-F):	C
Date:	Signature:
23.06.2019	