



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Marcel Hirling

Title: Russia's Syria policy: geopolitical interests or defense of great power identity?

Programme/year: ISSA 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Aliaksei Kazharski

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	39
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	79
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	99



## Evaluation

Major criteria:

Minor criteria:

Overall evaluation:

The thesis is a piece of independent research built around an original research idea. It develops existing constructivist IR approaches to analyze Russia's involvement in Syria as yet another "recognition game" with the West. The argument is well structured and convincing. The empirical sources are well selected and processed with the help of an appropriate coding software (MAXQDA). The analytical part looks a little bit descriptive at times, and the interaction between different frames could actually be developed further. Overall, the theoretical and empirical work that was done by the student is very impressive and deserves the highest possible grade.

Suggested grade:

98 (A)

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alku".