CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism

MA THESIS REVIEW

NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!

Review type (choose one):
       Review by thesis supervisor ☐   Review by opponent X

Thesis author:
       Surname and given name: Chu Yang
Thesis title: Who Decides What's News: News Frame Analysis of China's Covid-19 coverage of The New York Times and The Washington Post
Reviewer:
       Surname and given name: Veronika Macková
       Affiliation: KŽ IKSŽ FSV UK

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
1.2	Methodology	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
1.3	Thesis structure	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific): The author of the thesis adhered to the approved research proposal.

2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT
Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	B
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	B
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	A
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and to use them correctly	A
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	B
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	A

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems):
In the Introduction, I would focus more on the present-day foreign correspondents because the history of this field is not important for the context of the thesis, but rather the present day and, for example, the topic of reducing the number of foreign correspondents even at large media houses. I would also recommend working with newer literature in some cases.   With this topic, I would also like to know some information about the foreign correspondents in China. Are there the same number as years ago or have some newsrooms decided not to have their correspondent in China anymore?   Due to the large amount of disinformation about COVID-19 related to China, I would add more information about this disease in connection with China and what was its position in the world at that time.

What I also would add to the theoretical part of the work would be information about my chosen media. What is their policy on foreign correspondents etc.

3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM
Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
3.1	Quality of the structure	B
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	B
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	A
3.4	Quality, quantity and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	A
3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	A
3.6	Use of an academic writing style, and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	A
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	A

(*) in case the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; in case the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems):
The diploma thesis is at a good level in terms of formality and graphics. However, I would add some topics to the structure, and I would move the research questions to the methodological part of the work.

4. OVERAL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis's strengths and weaknesses):
After reading the diploma thesis about the changes in international newsgathering practices by examining the coverage of the COVID-19 outbreak in China by The New York Times (NYT) and The Washington Post (WaPo), I can state that it is a quality work. I found a few minor mistakes, but overall, it is a quality text that I recommend for the defense, and I rate it between "A" and "B" based on how the defense will proceed and how the author will answer my questions.

5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:

5.1	During the COVID-19 pandemic, did American media in China have reporters (foreign correspondents) who had lived in China before and were familiar with the environment?
5.2	Why do you think it wasn't important for WaPo to have more foreign correspondents in China?
5.3	
5.4	

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

☒ The reviewer is familiar with the thesis' score in plagiarism analysis in SIS.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	35 %

7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choo35 %se one or two)

A	☒	Excellent (excellent performance)
B	☒	Excellent (excellent performance)
C	☐	Very Good (above the average standard but with some errors)
D	☐	Very Good (above the average standard but with some errors)
E	☐	Good (generally sound work with a number of notable errors)
F	☐	Fail (unsatisfactory performance)

If the mark is an "F", please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:

Date:12. 9. 2024   Signature: ……………………………..

A finalised review should be printed, signed and submitted in two copies to the secretary of the Department of Media Studies. The electronic version of the review should be converted into a PDF and uploaded to SIS, or sent to the Department of Media Studies secretary who will upload it to SIS on the reviewer's behalf.

Do not upload PDFs with a scanned signature, the review uploaded to SIS must be without signature.