



PROTOCOL – THESIS DEFENCE

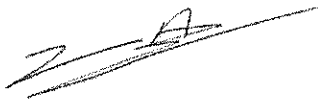


Student Name	Raven Yip
Student Number	4017269
Study Programme	MA European Politics and Society
Study Period	2022-2024
Thesis Title	Eroding Human Rights in Hong Kong: The National Security Law, EU Responses, and the Evolving Dynamics of EU-China Relations

DEFENCE DETAILS	
Date	18 July 2024
1st Chair – Title, Name, Role	Dr Joost Augusteijn – Chair, MA EPS Programme, Leiden
2nd Chair – Title, Name, Role	Dr Maxine David – Coordinator, MA EPS Programme, Leiden
3rd Chair – Title, Name, Role	Martin Mejstrik – Deputy Director, MA EPS Programme, Charles University
Comments from Defence Committee on Student Defence	
<p>Dr Augusteijn asked: about the RQs – do we really need to explore through your research that the NSL limits people’s rights – this was surely a given already that you could have shortcut to through existing literature? Ultimately, in the thesis, you look at effectiveness and make a comparison with UK and USA policy regarding Hong Kong but this is not reflected in your RQ, did you think about changing it? At first, the answer did not really reflect the thrust of the question, although the student basically ended up agreeing with Joost that the question was inadequately formulated. The Committee gave the student another chance but after a fairly long discussion, it was clear that the student had not really thought about going back to the RQ after the empirical work was complete in order to reframe it either to be more analytical in form or to align with the actual research. The student revealed a lack of full understanding regarding how to formulate a research question.</p> <p>The student was asked about the many theoretical frameworks and how they fitted fit into her findings. She concluded that securitisation, authoritarianism and the human rights frame were not of the same order as realism and constructivism which were the most appropriate.</p> <p>In thinking about how the EU responds to Russia, what do you think the EU should have done to promote human rights etc in respect of Hong Kong? The student referenced the EU’s lack of unity, meaning it cannot respond to China in Hong Kong but acknowledged that it does a lot in respect of Russia. She does not seem to see the contradictions here. On further enquiry from Dr David about what tools the EU has that it does not use, the student fixed – rightly – on sanctions. Added to this, the student was asked to describe the EU they were talking about. With a good deal of prodding,</p>	

the student was able to determine that the member states are divided in respect of exposure to China.

Martin Mejstrik (online): What do you think the most important contribution of your thesis is? Using EU-China relations to illuminate abuses endured by Hong Kongers.

Thesis Grade	7.8
Defence Grade	7.0 - C

Signature – 1 st Chair	
Date	18 July 2024
Signature 2 nd Chair	
Date	18 July 2024
Signature 3 rd Chair	
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