PROTOCOL – THESIS DEFENCE

Student Name	Emilie Joe Brandt
Student Number	4019156
Study Programme	MA European Politics and Society
Study Period	2022-2024
Thesis Title	Framing Democratic Backsliding in Hungary: Conservative Media Portrayals of Democratic Transgressions under Viktor Orbán

DEFENCE DETAILS	
Date	10 Sept 2024
1st Chair – Title, Name, Role	Dr Maxine David – Coordinator, MA EPS Programme, Leiden
2nd Chair – Title, Name, Role	Dr Matt Broad, Thesis Supervisor, Lecturer, MA EPS Programme, Leiden
Comments from Defence Committee on Student Defence	

Excellent presentation – the student was very well-prepared. She was absolutely on top of the literature talked through. She also demonstrated excellent understanding of the Hungarian context, including its regional and context positioning. Made a very good justification for the focus on US media but still, made sure to demonstrated good understanding of Hungary, European law and values and then delivered a convincing argument for looking at how Hungary connects to the US.

Questions
For your 4th hypothesis, was this much more because of your own prior expectations versus the literature? I would have hypothesised differently – I am wondering whether yu think you thought politically enough?

On norm violations – how do you understand the stance on these and what does it reveal to you about Hungary and perceptions of it?

During supervision, we talked a lot about the US landscape, but taking the US out of this, what can be generalised? Is the reaction US-specific or would you see the same elsewhere?

Giving the second reader's concerns about method – what, if anything, would you do differently?

Thesis Grade	7.6
Defence Grade	9.0

Signature – 1st Chair	
Date	10 Sept 2024
Signature 2nd Chair	
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