

# MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

*GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University*

<b>Thesis title:</b>	<b>Geopolitical Representations of Russia and Ukraine in the Spanish Version of Russia Today News Media</b>
<b>Name of Student:</b>	<b>Laura Tatiana Pérez Molina</b>
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	<b>Malvina Krausz Hladká, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	<b>11.9.2024</b>

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the four numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

**1) Contribution and argument:**

The evaluated thesis offers a significant contribution by examining how Russia employs media, particularly the Spanish version of RT (Russia Today), to disseminate geopolitical representations of Russia and Ukraine in Latin America. Through this analysis, the study highlights Moscow's strategic efforts to influence the information landscape and shape global perceptions, particularly concerning the conflict in Ukraine. However, two aspects limit the broader contribution of the thesis. First, the selected timeframe (April to July 2024) is relatively short, and while it is explained that this limitation stems from RT's search engine, the rationale for choosing this specific period is not sufficiently elaborated, nor are the consequences of this selection fully addressed. Second, although the research questions are clearly formulated, the answers to them remain somewhat implicit and would benefit from more explicit articulation. The thesis acknowledges its limitations, particularly the short timeframe of analysis due to technical restrictions, and the absence of an in-depth exploration of how Latin American audiences interpret RT's narratives. Additionally, a more comprehensive consideration of autonomous governance theories would have strengthened the analytical depth of the thesis.

**2) Theoretical and methodological framework:**

The thesis employs critical discourse analysis, grounded in Fairclough's three-dimensional model, which is appropriate and effectively utilized in this context. It also draws from critical geopolitics, a well-suited theoretical framework. The theoretical and methodological grounding is robust, and there are no significant concerns in this area.

**3) Sources and literature:**

The thesis uses a solid range of both primary and secondary sources, with particular strength in its inclusion of both English and Spanish-language materials. The citations are accurate, and the references are comprehensive, which reinforces the academic rigor of the work.

**4) Manuscript form and structure:**

The structure of the thesis is well-organized, logically progressing through a literature review, theoretical discussion, methodological explanation, and detailed analysis. The division into chapters and subchapters enhances the clarity and flow of the argument.

**5) Quality of presentation**

The quality of the presentation is commendable. Although there are some minor language issues, the overall clarity and readability are strong.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	38
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	21
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	9
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	9

<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<i>(max. 100 points)</i>	<b>92</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>		<b>A</b>

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

**I recommend the thesis for final defence.**

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**Referee Signature**

**Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:**

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.