Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bc. Kenneth C. Stein

Title: Viktor Orbán's National Hungarian Identity Construct: Securitization of the 2015/2016 European Migrant Crisis as Existential Threat?

Programme/year: BS, 2016/2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Doc. Dr. Nik Hynek, PhD

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	30
Total		*80*	64
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	7
	Style	**5**	1
	Formal requirements	**5**	0
Total		*20*	8
TOTAL		*100*	72

Evaluation

Major criteria and evaluation:

This thesis analyses one of the most important issues of today's European security, i.e. migration crisis. It focuses on the notable and analytically important case of Hungary, and specifically on the person of its leader - Viktor Orbán. It uses insights from CDA and social psychology and weaves them together with securitization analysis as known in IR/SS. It studies speech acts of Orbán and especially the connection between securitization of immigration to Hungary and a bigger interest in (re)construction of Hungarian social and political identity, as well as a plan to increase grip on power through constitutional proposals. This is a very difficult thesis to assess. Theoretically, analytically, and methodologically sophisticated work on one hand. Formally, deeply problematic. Author shows clearly his erudition in approaching the subject, and selection of data, and their subsequent analysis. He is more than capable in linking it back to the key concepts he outlines and discusses in the beginning of the thesis. However the former should be the crux of assessment, the latter - formal requirements - sends it to the bottom realm of possible. I see two notable problems. First, much of a thesis is written in the register of a report (repeated systems of bullet points, length of paragraphs to mention two indices). Second, and much more importantly for my assessment, the thesis lacks the expected length, absolutely and relatively. The relative dominance of Orbán's speeches after page 20, often cited in their entirety with greetings etc., completely overshadow author's own analysis. By a *conservative* estimate, 60 percent of the text goes to citations of primary data. What would otherwise be a very robust thesis becomes a problematic one. For these unfortunate reasons, I cannot evaluate the thesis better than 3 (Good).

Suggested grade: Good - 3

Signature:

Nik Hynek

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