



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Sana Chaudhry

Title: A Case Study on British Muslims: Recent European Political Developments and Self-Censorship on Social Media

Programme/year: MISS (SecIntel), 2nd year

Author of Evaluation: Tomáš Karásek (supervisor)

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	38
<i>Total</i>		80	74
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	93



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The author presents a thoughtful, well structured and, in a very appealing way, passionate analysis of a most actual and relevant topic. The thesis focuses on the impact of recent Islamophobia on British Muslims' freedom of expression on social media. Three research questions form a logical complex, starting with a search for the influence of the securitization of Islam in the light of current terrorist attacks, through the key question of possible self-censorship in online discussions, to the issue of gender and its role in this social process.

The thesis is not theoretically oriented but it compellingly weaves in a wide range of academic literature on the issues of securitization, freedom of speech, social media and, of course, the position of the Muslim minority in Britain. Its main strength lies in the twofold methodology, combining questionnaires with in-depth interviews to provide a vivid and detailed account of (mostly young) British Muslims and their reflection of the aforementioned issues. The results of the questionnaires and answers from the interviews are expertly combined with relevant academic sources, achieving a highly persuasive analytical outcome.

Minor criteria:

As mentioned above, the thesis builds on a wide array of relevant academic sources, combined with the outputs of the author's own research. The author has thus been able to place her findings and opinions against a solid background of previous academic inquiry.

Among other positive features, the thesis is presented in a very engaging manner, demonstrating the author's deeply felt concerns about the social issue in vogue, and yet avoiding the trap of misrepresenting her opinions for scientific 'truths'. The passion for the subject has apparently fuelled the research, but its results are then presented in a proper analytical fashion.



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Overall evaluation:

The reviewed thesis presents a finely built research focusing on the position of British Muslims in the current, highly securitized environment. It rests on a wide array of relevant academic sources, combined with a convincingly designed and executed research based on a combination of questionnaires and interviews. The resulting findings are persuasive and properly contextualized in the light of more general scientific knowledge about the issue.

Suggested grade: **1**

Signature: