



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Thomas Morin-Robinson

Title: Governing One Another: Climate and the Networked City a multi-level analysis of municipal climate policy output

Programme/year: MAIN/2018

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Michal Parížek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	29
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	39
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	78
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	3
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	95



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

This is a very strong thesis concerned with the effects of trans-municipal networks on climate policy outputs, centered around the hypotheses that cities that are networked with others are more likely to adopt more ambitious outputs, measured as passed climate policies.

There is a lot to like about the thesis: clearly defined subject of the study, well-crafted research question and (complementary) hypotheses, comprehensive literature review, data gathering and an advanced analytical technique (multilevel negative binomial model) used to evaluate the analysis. The thesis succeeds in developing and implementing an original research framework that leads to new insights.

In terms of the empirical analysis, I was not clear on why four dummy predictors instead of a single 5-level ordinal variable are used. I am also not completely clear on the instrumental variable analysis, although, to put it openly, this way surpasses the standard toolkit employed at the MA level at the Institute, so I do not mean it as a substantive criticism. Otherwise, of course, the issue of a possible endogeneity of the relationship between network membership and climate policy adoption is important for the argument.

I like a lot that the author is very conscious of the limitations of the study (sample of networks, limitations of variables, including the substance behind the dependent variable...), explicit in their listing, and careful in the interpretations of the results in the light of the limitations.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis is not particularly well formatted – both the text (chapter headings) and the tables (printscreens, sometimes small) should be made visually more attractive. The writing style is very clear, including in the more technical sections.



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Overall evaluation:

This is a very high quality thesis that performs a high-level analysis of an important phenomenon and provides new results concerning the relationship between city membership in trans-municipal networks and their climate policy commitments. It combines depth of theorizing with strong empirical analysis, which is all the more noteworthy given that the author is still very cautious and open about the analysis' limitations. This is job well done!

Suggested grade: A

Signature: