



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Kailyn Johnson

Title: National Resilience in CyberSpace: The UK's National Cyber Security Strategy Evolving Response to Dynamic Cyber Security Challenges

Programme/year: MISS/SECINTEL 2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	27
Total		80	56
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
Total		20	16
TOTAL		100	72



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis intends to link recent global cyber security incidents with the evolution of the UK's cyber security policies. Conceptually, the thesis suffers from several confusions. Interestingly, it brings forward an idea of cyber strategic culture, however, it fails to define, operationalise, and later apply it to empirical analyses. Besides this relevant direction, the theoretical part is riddled with several notions that do not communicate well with the thesis goals nor with the empirical analysis offered in the latter part of the thesis. Given the empirical observations, it is for example a shame that the theoretical part did not reflect the notion of policy reactivity along with the conceptualisation of the cyber security culture. As a result, there is a gap between the poorly elaborated theoretical framework and decently realised empirical discussion of the evolution of UK's cyber security policy. That said the latter deserves an appreciation as it delivers on the particularities of the individual cyber threats mitigations. The concluding part of the thesis also reads much better than the preceding parts. All in all it is a decent thesis addressing a relevant and contemporary issue that suffers from a rather large gap between theory and empirics. On the other hand, the empirical part offers some interesting insights and a conclusion indeed proving that the global cyber incidents inform the cyber policy formation in the UK.

Minor criteria:

OK

Overall evaluation:

The thesis comes up with a relevant idea; however it lacks a clearer research design, which could be used effectively to address this problem.

Suggested grade: C2

Signature: