

Examiner's Report on PhD Dissertation

Author of dissertation: Přemysl Štěpánek

Title of dissertation: Mezinárodní režim ochrany klimatu ve světle závazků vybraných států

Author of report: Mats Braun

In March I delivered a detailed review of the dissertation. Therefore, this review is relatively brief, and I focus on how the author has dealt with the points I raised then. I would like to start by concluding that the author has dealt and made changes to nearly all the remarks. The introduction has been revised to better explain the relevance of the research question in relation to the previous research. The discussion on the regression analysis now includes the relevant descriptive statistics and the misleading reference to hierarchical model has been removed. When it comes to the theoretical discussion this has been expanded. The usage of hypotheses based on rationalism and constructivism is now better explained and the reduction of the number of hypotheses has contributed to their coherence. The selection of the three political entities for the case studies is now better explained and the structure of the presentation of those has been approved.

With these changes made I think the dissertation meets the standards expected for a PhD. Yet, ideally, I would have liked to see some more reflections on the dissertation's broader theoretical point of departure. I asked for a more substantial discussion on the theories in the previous review and as mentioned I think this partly has been done. However, what is still missing is a reflection on the ontological and epistemological starting point of the research. Implicitly, it seems the research is based on methodological individualism (which fits well with liberal rationalism but less so with constructivism) since the research assumes that the strength of commitments can be explained with a focus on country characteristics ignoring the negotiation process and other interactions in the process of specifying the commitments. This, is never discussed in the dissertation and I would suggest the author uses some time during the viva to address this issue.

Prague – September 18, 2018 - Doc. Mats Braun, PhD