

**Abstract of diploma thesis *„Seek Russians behind everything: Critical research of „Russian disinformation campaign“ discourse in the Czech republic‘.***

Author: Bc. Adam Čech

Supervised by: Dagmar Rychnovská, M.A., LL.M., Ph.D.

Study programme: International relations

Year of work defence: 2019

This study researches the „Russian disinformation campaign threat“ discourse, that was established in the Czech republic since 2014. The study utilizes a method termed for the purpose of this work as „lesser discourse analysis“. It explores the origins and influences that played a role in creation of a specific understanding of the topic. Subsequently it engages in a critical analysis of the discourse and assesses whether the understanding of the Russian hybrid threat, especially regarding the disinformation, is legitimate and based on known facts and correct interpretation of them, or whether it is not (partially) based on delusions, myths, logical shortcuts, misinformation (or possibly disinformation) on part of the creators and active participators of the discourse. The study also presents a set of recommendations to „straighten“ the discourse on this important topic. The study engages in analysing of the process of the agenda-setting regarding the topic through the lenses of „securitization theory “. It identifies the main securitizing actors, formulation of the threat, referential objects and the key securitizing moves, and evaluates if a securitization had indeed taken place in the Czech republic based on the securitization criteria provided by the Copenhagen school. For the purposes of added necessary context, the study also contains a chapter dedicated to the historical development of the topic worldwide.