



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Riddhi Anand

Title: The Immigration Policies of the EU Member States: Adaptation in relation to the refugee crisis

Programme/year: MAIN 2019

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Viera Knutelská

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	22
<i>Total</i>		80	57
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	5
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	15
TOTAL		100	72



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis addresses question of substantial academic and policy relevance: "Did migration crisis change immigration policies of EU Member States?" The author selected Moravcsik's liberal theory of international politics, which is well presented in the thesis. She derives two hypotheses from it, the first one assuming that the increase in immigrants and asylum seekers increases negative public opinion on migration, followed by the second hypothesis assuming that this negative opinion will then lead to adoption of more negative national policies and preferences on EU policies. However, the argument that would show how exactly these hypotheses were derived from the theory is underdeveloped. The thesis devotes relatively extensive part of the text (six pages out of forty) to defining key terms related to migration (such as migrant, refugee etc.), and while it is certainly true that the blurry use of these terms in public debate causes misunderstandings and deserves clarification in any debate on migration, it has little significance for the research presented in this thesis.

While both the hypothesis and the claimed method, casual process tracing, suggest that the thesis explores causality between migration crisis, public opinion and consequently policy preferences, the choice to conduct the analysis on four cases (Germany, Sweden, Italy and the Czech Republic) effectively prevented the author from actually employing the process tracing and proving causality. The cases are described rather briefly, with relatively limited data that are not always supported by sufficient references. While the conclusions are interesting, they show correlation rather than causality, and in some cases reiterate the hypothesis even without sufficient correlation – for example, in the case of the Czech republic, the author claims that a "slight rise in immigrants on its own territory led to an extremely negative public opinion on the topic", while it could be easily argued that the change in public opinion was caused by other factors. The author also unfortunately uses the terms of public opinion and public discourse interchangeably.

Minor criteria:

Some references in the body of the thesis are unclear (such as "European Commission Website" used on multiple occasions), and therefore cannot always be matched with references in the bibliography, especially in the case of online sources. Also, web references are often missing last access date.



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Overall evaluation:

The thesis addresses a relevant question, presents useful literature review and clear theoretical framework. On the other hand, it does not actually use process tracing as declared, and its conclusions are more self-evident than actually proving causal mechanisms.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: