



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Patrick Zamlar

Title: **International impact of Catalonia independence efforts**

Programme/year: Mezinárodní vztahy, 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	19
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	229
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	<i>56</i>
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	<i>15</i>
TOTAL		<i>100</i>	<i>71</i>



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis offers a very interesting research premise – but to a significant extent fails to deliver on its promise. The question about external effects of a separatist movement, as exemplified here by the case of Catalonia, is beyond any doubt valid, first and foremost in the contemporary European context. However, the thesis fails to properly conceptualize this specific category of conflict internationalization (different, but not necessarily less important than the usual meaning related to the meddling of external actors in an intrastate armed conflict). The purported theoretical part of the thesis offers a lengthy overview of approaches to conflict and its international dimension, but does not distil from them a unified conceptual anchor that would guide the subsequent research. On top of that, a rigorous methodological plan is also missing, leading to a rather instinctive analysis.

The author is evidently at his strongest when dissecting the development and current state of Catalanian separatism – here, the insight is deep, superbly informed, detailed and nuanced. However, the attempt to expand the impact of the movement beyond the Spanish borders results in sketched ‘vignettes’ rather than rigorous analysis. Given the relatively lean size of the thesis, more could have been done to fulfil the promise of the thesis’s title that put the international effects of Catalanian separatism at the text’s alleged core.

Minor criteria:

The author relies on a wide range of resources that are properly referred to throughout the text. The language of the thesis is adequate; however, the structuring of the chapters (especially in the theoretical part) is a bit haphazard and makes following the argumentation somewhat challenging.

Overall evaluation:

A thesis with a solid empirical core, dissecting a very relevant and topical independence movement in Catalonia. It fails, however, to persuasively frame the topic under a unified theoretical concept and, to some extent, does not deliver on the promise of analysing (as opposed to presenting) the international effects of the phenomenon.

Suggested grade: **C**

Signature: