

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS IEPS

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	Evaluating China's Presence in South America
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	Abril V. Mariaca
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	PhDr. Malvína Krausz Hladká, Ph.D.

**Remark:** It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

### **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	14
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	9
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-F)</b>	<b>C</b>

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

#### **1) Theoretical background:**

Thesis include forceless theoretical part, where student prove her attempts to some description of the topic. Unfortunately, theory used in the thesis is not consistently incorporated within the text, thesis misses clear identification of theoretical base.

#### **2) Contribution:**

Understanding complexity of problematic of China's influence in the world – in this thesis specifically in Latin America - is important and very interesting topic to analyse. Recent political changes are themes for many political scientists, from well-known research centers who focuses on geopolitics, world shifts, soft power strategies etc. The effort of student Abril V. Mariaca, in this context, seems very beneficial and up to date. And this is the reason why presented thesis fulfills the basic criteria – the proper relevancy for the research. As an insufficiency of the work I consider its simplism in some of its parts.

#### **3) Methods:**

In the submitted elaboration, methodology was not sufficiently used to deepen or upgrade the main aim and outcomes of this thesis. The main point of the evaluation of methodology is the fact that there is no clear result coming out of this thesis because primarily hypothesis by itself has been formulated vaguely.

**4) Literature:**

Mrs. Abril V. Mariaca quotes extensive, relevant and recent literature which shows that she has a profound knowledge of the literature, stats, data, documents, internet resources concerning the topic.

**5) Manuscript form:**

Technical structure of the text is transparent. Topic itself is divided into five core chapters. The division in chapters is logical, all the chapters are divided into paragraphs in a correct manner. The argumentation is structured confusedly in some parts of the thesis, but overall, I conclude that the thesis fulfills all the criteria set to M.A. program according to the standards of the Institute of Political Science. Profitable supplements of the text are figures and tables that perfectly demonstrate the analyzed data.

***DATE OF EVALUATION:***                      January 28, 2020

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***Referee Signature***