



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Marika PIANESE

Title: The unintended metamorphosis of Political Islam in Egypt: Al Azhar, Salafism and Muslim Brotherhood

Programme/year: ISSA, 2019/2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Emil ASLAN

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	4
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	16
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	30
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	50
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	70



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

This isn't a political science thesis. It is not driven by a political science theory; it fails to contribute to a body of knowledge related to political science in general or IR in particular. Although it operates with terms like political Islam, it is barely related to political-theological debates either; rather, it is an area studies thesis. As such, it basically lacks on what stands for good political science – or social sciences to that matter – being theory-informed, driven by testable research questions. The RQs put together by the author are rather unrelated. They are too broad and don't have the "puzzle" – for most observers, the answer to what happened to various groups self-subscribing to the agenda of political Islamist is self-evident: following the failure of Arab Spring and the expectations that it brought along, most such groups lost to the increasingly repressive regimes in their home countries.

### Minor criteria:

This having been said, the author is a true analyst. She has impressive knowledge of the region and nuanced understanding of the researched phenomena. She's proved capable of navigating herself through the magnitude of sources related to a complex phenomenon rooted in a complex region. Although the thesis would benefit from proofreading by a native speaker, the author's skills of a storyteller are compelling.

### Overall evaluation:

A solid area studies thesis, with nuanced empirical knowledge. A poor work of social science, distantly related to the field of security studies. No theorizing, little generalization, no contribution to the literature; analytical, yet descriptive.

### Suggested grade:

70 (D)

### Signature:

Emil Aslan (Souleimanov)