

Name of the student:	Kseniia Petrantsova
Title of the thesis:	European Union's Action for Gender Equality in its Foreign Policy: Normative Gender Power?
Reviewer:	Tània Verge

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The research question addresses a relatively unexplored topic, that of Europe's Normative Power in the field of gender equality. In doing so, the student breaks new grounds in applying this approach to Russia, which has not received much scholarly attention, and in assessing the extent to which gender mainstreaming is thoroughly applied by the EU in its external action. The literature review is very well executed.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The execution of the process tracing of the case under examination is excellent. It is grounded on dozens of primary source documents and it has managed to 'squeeze' all the relevant information.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The student has been able to link very effectively the data with the conclusions. It is commendable the effort put in drawing conclusions for each of the research objectives. Again, it is a very sound and careful work.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

All the formal academic standards have been met by the student.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The student has produced an excellent piece of work. In my opinion, with adjustments as regards the number of words, the dissertation could be prepared for a journal submission. This is how strongly I judge the quality of her work. While interviews could have complemented the data collection, the COVID19 situation made it impossible to undertake – she tried to contact the interviewees but not much response was obtained. Yet, it should be noted that the dissertation is equally valuable and has a high quality without the interviews.

Grade (0-10):	10 (A)
Date:	Signature:
28 June 2020	