



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Antonela Ramljak

Title: Gender-Responsive DDR: Social, Economic and Political Reincorporation of Women Ex-Combatants in Colombia

Programme/year: MISS 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): doc. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	39
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	3
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	2
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	94



## Evaluation

Major criteria:

This Master's thesis represents a highly valuable contribution to the design, practice and assessment of, not only, gender-responsive DDR programmes in post-conflict settings. The main objective of the research was to map direct experiences of FARC women ex-combatants pertaining to the implementation of the Second Generation DDR in Colombia as it is currently being undertaken especially with respect to the social, political and economic reincorporation and their rigour as for gender-sensitive approach.

The principal asset behind the text is the author's palpable passion for the subject that led her to perform field research directly in Colombia, thus being able to gather a unique set of empirical data at the very source. Despite her novice position as a field researcher, Antonela did not underestimate thorough preparation for the field which is persuasively demonstrated in the methodological section of the work – she successfully identifies the challenges of fieldwork, the sensitive issue of conducting in-depth (almost intimate) interviews with FARC women ex-combatants, the problematic of gaining access and her limitations as a researcher. Regrettably, the number of in-depth qualitative interviews (six) supporting the analysis was challenged by the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions (as the author herself openly acknowledges), nevertheless she aptly increased the power of the empirical base by including secondary sources to support evidence provided by the interviews with relevant strategic documents, such as the Havana Peace Agreement, complementing and boosting the thesis empirics.

The theoretical section of the thesis is very well researched both in terms of the area of DDR programming as well as the theoretical framework defining gendered approach towards the design and implementation of these extremely complex programmatic schemes while she also correctly identifies the qualitative shift in DDR over the last decade claiming, in line with her field findings, that further steps need to be taken towards better inclusion of women's needs into DDR programming. One small remark, the theoretical part could have offered a tighter conceptualization utilized further in the analytical part – especially the historical exposes make it suffer slightly from being more descriptive than necessary. What must be also highlighted is the author's description of guerrilla warfare as a distinct type of asymmetric conflict acknowledging role to greed or grievance as a conducive factor.



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Another, and very much desired, strength of the thesis is the clear focus the author managed to maintain throughout the text reflected in coherent, logical structure and sharp analytical edge. More specifically, it is the author's fervent feminist approach to ethnography that enables her to ask her respondents the right questions to get sufficiently ample answers to her research questions. Apparently, this engaged approach led to the persuasive findings the author has shared – she provided valuable insight not only into how gender dynamics played a distinct role in the FARC guerrilla war, but also how it helped shape the post-war feminist agenda and the process of reincorporation, thus mediating a direct experience of how gruelling the process of reincorporation in all its respects is and reveal the gap between the DDR design and the ex-combatants' first-hand experience of the programme on the ground. What is more, author's empirical findings concerning FARC's alleged status of a 'women-friendly' group help debunk the myth.

Minor criteria:

Overall, the text is very well structured, it is logically coherent and in the parts devoted to the empirical analysis of the women ex-combatant's accounts makes the reader even absorbed. However, the language of the thesis occasionally tends to suffer from colloquialisms that do not correspond with academic language (not in the field citation parts), this concerns especially the use of phrasal verbs. Moreover, the List of References is not compiled in alphabetic order and some references do not follow the proper standard which makes it difficult to orient oneself in the resources.

Overall evaluation:

Antonela's thesis must be recommended for defence – it works with empirical data gathered in complicated field conditions, demonstrates author's natural predispositions to conduct sensitive-topic interviews, distil relevant data and finally also proves the ability to write a highly analytical work that possesses capacity to shed novel light on the DDR problematic, point at directions for further research and even help change the policy practice.



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Suggested grade:

A

Signature:

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