



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Angela Mehrer

Title: Information Warfare and the Politics of Threats: An analysis of Russian Information Warfare on Germany and its Perception by German politicians

Programme/year: MISS / 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/~~external assessor~~): Jan Ludvik

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	72
<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>	92



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

Angela Mehrer's thesis unquestionably presents a solid master-level work. The thesis addresses an important topic. The topic is well motivated in the introduction. Furthermore, the introduction avoids an omission usual in many master theses. Introduction goes beyond introducing the topic. It also outlines the analytical strategy and structure of the thesis.

The thesis draws on extensive study of existing literature, which is meticulously reviewed in the literature review section. The literature review introduces three important streams of literature on a) Russia and information warfare, b) threat perception, c) German-Russian relations. I think the discussion in the state-of-the-art section could have connected these three streams of literature together a bit more, but this is just a minor omission.

The theoretical section is a bit problematic as I believe it leans to being another literature review. Especially sections 3.1. and 3.2. appear almost unnecessary. At least, I believe it was entirely possible to make these two sections shorter. Instead, I would appreciate if you could explain in more detail how did you generate your hypotheses and which literature/theory underpins them.

The coding behind the analysis must have been an impressive amount of work. It is understandable, you try to present as much as possible from it. Having said that, I believe most readers would appreciate if the presentation of analytical results put more emphasis on the big picture instead of peculiarities.

Last, I am not entirely convinced by a separate section which is devoted to the analysis of the two interviews you made. I think it would have been beneficial to present results for the analysis of all data together. Again, however, this is just a small suggestion.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis is written in a clear and understandable language. Sources are well selected, and all formal criteria are observed.



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Overall evaluation:

This is a solid master level work. While minor improvements are possible here and there, the analytical tradecraft is more than adequate. I believe the thesis still deserves to be considered as an excellent one.

Suggested grade: A

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan J.", followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.