



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Dominique Chagas Linhares

Title: Roles Women Play in the Alt-Right: Aspirations and Limitations

Programme/year: International Security Studies/SS 2020

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): doc. PhDr. Běla Plechanovová, CSc.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	6
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	21
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	57
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	14
TOTAL		100	71



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis addresses an interesting topic of engagement of women in Alternative Right (alt-right) movements. The Author aims to contribute to the solution of the puzzle: why women support a social movement lead by an ideology which denies women any public and political role or agency. The Author aims to answer questions “how are women’s motivations in becoming and being involved in the alt-right shaped by their understanding of gender? What are their expectations when joining in and how are these expectations matched?” The methodology chosen for this endeavour is so called netnography, ethnography applied to the internet environment. The Author has left her original intention to frame her thesis in the grounded theory and to use both participatory and non-participatory observation. In the end she has decided to primarily explore the ground on the internet what it can provide on alt-right women’s positions (“inductive qualitative data analysis employing netnography methods in a non-participative approach”).

The thesis offers a thorough survey of the literature dealing with the role of women in right wing social movements. Unfortunately, it does not go further to provide either a theoretical framework that could offer basic assumptions leading the choice of concepts possibly explaining the phenomenon under scrutiny. Neither it offers a clear set of arguments that would explain why the exploratory research strategy is supposed to be the only feasible alternative. Therefore, the research design of the thesis lacks clarity, the methodology is not properly described. I particularly miss a critical review of the sources of the data, their reliability and possible bias. The Author mentions that the type of data and the position of women authoring these may pose a problem, but she does not discuss the possible implications any further. The data are not introduced in any systematic way – who are the women, which movements they support or are attached to, the countries they come from, differences in agenda or focus among the movements – if any – that may influence the answers to the RQs, platforms where the data was collected and which context, etc.



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Minor criteria:

The scope of resources used is adequate, the absence of the critical review of sources does not allow to assess the relevance and strength of the arguments built upon them properly. The number and scope of direct quotes is in my opinion too big, even it may fit to the exploratory character of the text. The style and language are adequate.

Overall evaluation:

The strength of this thesis lies in the depth of the exploratory effort and the scope of the sources used for empirical analysis, as well as the proactive approach; the weakness lies in the weak/absent research design which does not allow to evaluate the contribution of the analysis properly.

Suggested grade: C