Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Anastasija Šerstka

Title: Big Data: A New Perspective on Conflict Resolution

Programme/year: MISS 2020-2021

Author of Evaluation (~~supervisor~~/external-assessor): Petr Špelda, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	32
Total		*80*	69
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		*20*	20
TOTAL		*100*	89

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Evaluation

Major criteria:

The dissertation focuses on the role of Big Data in conflict resolution and conflict prevention. This a timely and highly relevant topic, both from the scholarly as well as policy point of view, considering the range of international organisations interested in this issue. The offered analysis is conceptually grounded in conflict resolution literature and works dealing with Big Data-based analyses in political contexts. The dissertation's biggest contribution lies in introducing various empirical examples that show how (Big) data analysis can help to prevent or resolve conflicts. Although the presentation of examples could have been informed in a better way, e.g., by introducing a unifying typology, the collection of empirical illustrations remains original and as such can be appreciated. The dissertation's strong part is in its presentation of Big Data benefits for conflict prevention and resolution. That being said, a welcome addition would have been also a critical counterpart, looking at new kind of fallacies introduced by this kind of tool.

Minor criteria:

From the formal point of view, there are no major problems, and the dissertation shows a diligent approach. The compiled bibliography is above average.

Overall evaluation:

The dissertation is well-elaborated and reads more as a review than a research paper. However, the presented survey is still a valuable addition to the disciplinary debates.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature

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