



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jana Truchlá

Title: Processes of Radicalisation: Foreign Fighters from Western Europe Who Fought for Islamic State

Programme/year: Security Studies/2021

Author of Evaluation (thesis supervisor): prof. Oldřich Bureš

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	
<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>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	91

### Evaluation

Major criteria:

The reviewed thesis explores causes of radicalisation of so-called foreign fighters (FFs) from three Western European. Given the lack of agreement regarding both the definition of radicalization and the existence of numerous models of radicalization, this is an ambitious endeavour. The author has managed to both review and critically engage much of the existing literature on this complex topic. From this literature review, she specified four hypotheses derived from three key approaches to the study of radicalization – social movement theory, social psychology, and conversion theory. These hypotheses were tested in the empirical chapters, whose structure follows the selected key factors of radicalization.



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As in most studies of radicalization, questions can be raised regarding the size of the sample of FFs from each of the three countries, selection of radicalization models/theories, and the very possibility of generalization from complex individual processes of radicalization. These can be discussed during the defence of this thesis.

Overall, the thesis is well structured and overall quite well written, albeit some parts are perhaps a bit too descriptive. The author has managed to find, read and incorporate key insights from the booming literature on FFs. The list of references is extensive for an MA thesis.

As the supervisor, I also want to acknowledge the hard work of Ms. Truchlá when it comes to incorporating most of my numerous recommendations and criticisms on the earlier drafts of this thesis.

Minor criteria:

There are minor stylistic issues throughout the thesis.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis still meets the general requirements for this type of work. I, therefore, recommend the thesis to be defended.

Suggested grade:

**A2**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. M.' or similar, written in a cursive style.