

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2479915 DCU 19108575 Charles 92822661
Dissertation Title	Human security and the Nigerian counterterrorism policy: Is the Nigerian counterterrorism policy human security centred?

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade Select from drop down list	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade Select from drop down list	Late Submission Penalty no penalty
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
Word Count: 22,219 Suggested Penalty: Select from drop down list		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).

Before Penalty: C1 [14] **After Penalty:** C1 [14]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Good
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Weak
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Weak
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Weak
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Good
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Not required
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	No

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ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The dissertation seeks to evaluate whether the Nigerian counter-terrorism policy effectively incorporates considerations of human security, both in the ambition of the policy, and in its implementation. In doing so, the dissertation explores a promising research question that could contribute to building on an already extensive body of research on the drivers of terrorism in the region. Stylistically, there are some issues with clarity and comprehensibility throughout, and some points on referencing (see further below) that detract from the overall quality.

Structurally, the dissertation is clearly labelled by chapter and generally makes use of paragraphs and sub-sections within each chapter to signpost key points. However, where the introduction could have more effectively presented the context, rationale and an overall map of the study, it contains a lengthy synthesis of existing research that could be more effectively presented in the following chapter. The study is generally well-situated in the literature, in particular in drawing on Nigerian and West African scholarship throughout, demonstrating committed engagement with non-Western sources. However, in places, the literature review tends more towards a descriptive summary, than a critical evaluation or synthesis of existing research: this makes it more difficult to discern where the author's own analysis builds on, advances, challenges or addresses a gap in existing research. In addition, there are issues with under-referencing throughout the study. In a number of instances, what appear to be direct quotes or quotes with only minimal changes are presented without quotation marks.

In terms of research design and methods, the section contains some relevant material that is richly detailed in places, but suffers from a lack of clarity around the research design and key features thereof: the exact relationship between the seven components, four pillars of counterterrorism, the analysis of three case studies ('events') and - later - the five pillars of NACTEST is not always clear and would have benefited from a clearer statement of how the selection of these cases corresponded to, or tested, different components / pillars. The empirical sections display a clear and detailed familiarity with relevant materials and associated secondary literature. However, as with the literature review, in places, this tends towards lengthy summary and description, rather than analysis and critical interrogation. As a result, the overall argument is not always clear, nor is the logical flow of that argument easy to follow. In some areas, central assertions are directly drawn from existing research - e.g. 'The NACTEST is a very elaborated strategy that reflects global best practices' (p. 70) - making the study's particular contribution more difficult to discern.

Overall, this is a solid dissertation, on a theoretically and empirically important topic, that demonstrates clear familiarity with a key context and associated policy and research outputs.

Reviewer 2

This thesis attempts to ascertain whether, and if so, to what extent/where, human security has been incorporated into the Nigerian national counter-terrorism strategy. The structure of the thesis is convoluted by jumping between parts and chapters, where some parts (e.g. Part II) do not contain any chapters, just "components". When it comes to structural features, a lit-review, methods (though "a human security approach" has nothing to do with methods, not even being a concept) and the actual empirical analysis. I think the research question is not productively chosen (being answerable by a binary yes/no options, verging on the banal). The "definition" of

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human security seems to me too short and weak, also compared to the better discussion of terrorism and counterterrorism. One reason is that the author is dependent for assessment components of human security on the very governmental documents it tries to study. This is indeed a problematic take on the topic as it doesn't allow the author to develop a more independent/intellectually critical position. A more philosophical problem I see in the thesis is an implicit yet steady belief by the author that more human security means better counter-terrorism strategy. While I agree that a wider and more comprehensive approach to terrorism needs to be sought, I think the very problem of the found gap between the levels of official discourse (official references to human security) and practice (no human security oriented practices) shows how an empty yet popular signifier could be a part of the problem rather than a solution. That leads me to dispute the conclusion that it was a lack of human security at the policy level that can explain the governmental failure in countering the terrorist practices of Boko Haram. I think it is a vast oversimplification to be arguing this.