



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Tobias Erik Stefan Herrmann

Title: Two Sides of the Same Coin? A Comparative Analysis of Right-Wing Extremists and Jihadists

Programme/year: ISSA

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	<i>67</i>
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>
TOTAL		100	87



Evaluation

Major criteria: I have somewhat mixed feelings about this thesis. On the one hand, the thesis sets out to investigate an important question of how radicalization pathways differ in the case of jihadist and right-wing extremists. Yet I see two shortcomings in terms of the author's execution: (a) he takes the jihadist pathway for granted/as a uniform one as he summarizes to allow for a sound comparison to his two select cases; in the reality, jihadist pathways are as complex and multifaceted as they get and their simplification doesn't help the validity of the general argument; (b) the author's sample size of right-wing terrorists is too small to allow for any sort of credible generalization even if (a) wouldn't present a logical problem; (c) should (b) hold, I have reservations as to how innovative the thesis is.

This having said, I still consider the thesis a solid piece of research, well-executed, grounded in the extant literature, logically structured. It summarizes in a nice fashion what is known of the convoluted field. It is analytical, well-written, and should the empirical data allow, it might serve as a point of departure for a more profound and valid investigation into this enormously important phenomenon within radicalization studies.

Minor criteria:

Good citation, solid knowledge of lit.

Overall evaluation:

Excellent premise, solid execution, yet some substantial (yet unavoidable given the scope of the thesis) shortcomings in terms of the RD.

Suggested grade: B



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Signature: