



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Tala Salem

Title: Honor Killings of Palestinian Women (A Critical Analysis)

Programme/year: MAIN

Author of Evaluation: Dr. Ondrej Ditrych (Second Reviewer)

| Criteria              | Definition                                  | Max. | Points    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| <b>Major Criteria</b> |                                             |      |           |
|                       | Research question, definition of objectives | 10   | <b>2</b>  |
|                       | Theoretical/conceptual framework            | 30   | <b>8</b>  |
|                       | Methodology, analysis, argument             | 40   | <b>10</b> |
| <i><b>Total</b></i>   |                                             | 80   | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Minor Criteria</b> |                                             |      |           |
|                       | Sources                                     | 10   | <b>3</b>  |
|                       | Style                                       | 5    | <b>0</b>  |
|                       | Formal requirements                         | 5    | <b>2</b>  |
| <i><b>Total</b></i>   |                                             | 20   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          |                                             | 100  | <b>25</b> |



## **Evaluation**

### Major criteria:

The thesis is concerned with honor killings in the West Bank. The subject matter is a serious one without doubt; the described case appears horrific. However, the thesis makes no attempt to relate it to either IR or any other subfield – e.g. through the lens of Feminist theory –, has no theory or methodology to answer in disciplined manner the proposed RQ related to the underlying motives of honor killings –, merely suggesting a correlation with tradition, religion and “unique societal structure”, without any standard attempt at verification or interpretation. It says something about honor killings and the judiciary system in Palestine, describes a case of purported honor killing of Israa Ghrayeb – which however fail to serve as a case study in any meaningful way – before concluding by describing life in Palestine and making rather vague policy recommendations. Majority of the sources used are nonacademic; when these are used, there is no standard referencing and at times references are missing. The argument is unstructured, resembling more a train of thought occasionally inlaid with personal opinions than a piece of academic writing. Instead of methodology that would provide some anchoring to the empirical section of the thesis, framed by relevant theoretical or conceptual introduction, there is merely a description of sources used.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis is written in a clear yet nonacademic style. It lacks standard formatting. The system of references is peculiar, not following a recognisable standard, and inconsistent.



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Overall evaluation:

The thesis takes on a serious subject, potentially of interest to IR, however it fails to frame it in theoretical terms, provide a discussion of methodology and a research protocol and, on the basis of that, offer a structured and disciplined empirical analysis that would result in conclusions relevant in the field. Therefore, unfortunately, I cannot recommend the thesis for defence as it stands.

Suggested grade:

**F**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrija D. J.', written over a horizontal line.