



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Tala Salem

Title: Honor Killings of Palestinian Women: A Critical Analysis

Programme/year: MAIN/WS 2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): doc. PhDr. Běla Plechanovová, CSc.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	2
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	10
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	18
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	30
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	4
	Style	<b>5</b>	3
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	2
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	39



## **Evaluation**

Major criteria:

The thesis addresses an alarming and relevant topic; honor killings that happen in a number of countries and show the low level of esteem the society has for women and their position in the family and society in general. The Author has picked up a case of Palestine with the ambition to point to the multiplicity of factors that possibly play role and that allow this abhorring practice to survive. The original plan was to provide at least elementary comparison of the situation in Palestine as a country where honor killings presumably happen in families with various religious backgrounds with another country where honor killings also happen but the structure of the society is different. Unfortunately, the thesis was researched and written in an extreme rush which shows in several dimensions of the submitted text.

First, the research project was not completed before the Author started to work on the text of the thesis. Therefore, as a result the thesis lacks in a clear theoretical or conceptual framework that would lead through both the conceptual and empirical sections of the text and would clarify the aims of the work and its relevance.

Second, connected with the first, the thesis is very weak in mapping the segments of academic literature devoted to the topic. The sources used are almost overwhelmingly from the government documents, think-tanks, or issue-activists. Nothing wrong with using these sources, only they do not help in conceptualizing the topic and tend to stick to descriptions of cases, eventually they focus on mobilizing the public to act against the practice. It is extremely important that the Author debates the existing academic literature that has been published on the topic so far. Any systematic review of literature is missing. As a result, the Author falls back on reproducing facts or positions or presenting private opinion instead of presenting coherent arguments supported by a distinct theoretical or conceptual position.



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Third, the empirical part of the thesis provides a narrative on a single case of an honor killing accompanied by the context of Palestinian legal and judiciary context. The problem is that the Author does not explain what this particular case tells us about the phenomenon, what are the factors that are important for understanding it and allowing comparison across different societies. The Author mentions that the number of cases of honor killings reaches double digits each year but didn't try to categorize them, to make sense what they have in common, how they differ etc.

Fourth, the text lacks in clear structure that would identify the direction and purpose of the steps taken. It is simply lead by the sources used, with no significant effort of the Author to provide the roadmap for the reader. It is thin as regards the sources referred to as well.

Minor criteria:

The short timespan in which the thesis was written shows negatively in several dimensions of the thesis. First, the length of the text is at the minimal threshold for the MA thesis. Second, the sections of the text are disproportioned as regards the length and the volume of information. Third, large sections of text remain left without reference.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis is unfortunately below the level of the Master thesis expected at the Faculty of Social Science. Therefore, I cannot commend it to be defended

Suggested grade: F