



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Diana Medvedeva**

Title: **Russia and the EU: Oil and Gas as a Source of Power**

Programme/year: IR/2022

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Irah Kučerová

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
	Style	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

Theoretical part isn't really theoretical, perhaps conceptual – but, this the big difference! The author doesn't work with any theories of IR, she uses as a main concept a strategic narrative. The position of the hypotheses can be accepted, they are logical. But not scientific - there seems to be a lack of a theoretical framework. The author talks about the expressing of the strategic narratives in non-obvious manner, I'm afraid that the way she responds to hypothesis verification in similar mode - rather implicit.

The formulation of "research" questions corresponds to a discussion in a regular debate rather than a truly research-oriented analysis.

In the empirical part, the method of open coding of strategic narratives used in two selected pro-government media was chosen, which I consider a suitable choice.

### Minor criteria:

The form of the Conclusion is also special - it is a very concise and abbreviated evaluation of the research. The list of used resources is not structured.

### Overall evaluation:

Very well-chosen topic, suitable timing of research, the author does not avoid controversial topics in the monitored materials / outputs of the two analyzed pro-Kremlin mass media. The analysis of strategic narratives in selected media can be assessed as careful, beneficial and to a large extent independent.

On the other hand, I perceive the approach to elaborating the topic as sociological rather than through the prism of IR. Although she works with the concept of strategic narrative, she does not explicitly analyze its superior category, namely the strategic culture that clearly determines that narrative. Of course, this is reflected in the conducted Literature Review, which is dominated by journalistic sources.

Suggested grade: **B-C** according to the course of the defense

Signature: