

BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Responsibility of Nation States for Global Justice: The Case of Germany
Student's name:	Nora Wrenger
Referee's name:	Tomáš Halamka

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	46
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	13
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	15
<i>Total</i>		80	74
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	10
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	5
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	94

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria

Nora Wrenger's thesis is an ambitious multidisciplinary endeavour at the intersection of legal theory, moral philosophy and political theory. The thesis begins by establishing the centrality of human dignity in German legal and philosophical tradition. Human dignity is positioned in relation to other moral and legal principles and conceptualised as an inalienable status right of each human being. This conceptualisation offers an extended (and social-liberal rather than voluntarist) interpretation of Kant's notion of human dignity. Carefully explained and defined, this extended notion is later employed in theorising nation states' responsibilities for global justice. The argument is made in a series of logically interconnected steps while utilising a respectable amount of relevant and usually well-selected literature. The formal level of the thesis is excellent, and the author's passion for the topic itself, and the academic style of investigation generally, is clearly visible. As the author is well versed in the subject matter and aware of possible criticisms of the presented account, she is able to offer respective sub-arguments, restatements and improvements of her claims. Although this style of argument development occasionally blurs the main line of argument, and I would prefer a discussion of German philosophical tradition to be offered before the chapter investigating its legal and political expressions, I find the arguments to be thought through with care and generally well-built. It would have been great if transnational institutions were

included in the account; still, such a decision is entirely logical considering this is a bachelor thesis, and that this particular dimension might be added in future research. If the author intends to publish her research in its current form, and I definitely see the case for doing so, I would recommend further developing and expanding Chapter 4 at the expense of shortening the previous "theoretical" part of the thesis. In any case, I find the thesis to be a very good one, a product of undoubtedly long and well-conducted academic research and I propose that it is evaluated as excellent.

Proposed grade: A

Suggested questions for the defence are:

To what extent is the thesis' reasoning applicable/useful for other European or Non-Western countries which do not emphasise the legacy of Kantian deontological moral theory?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.