IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Chiara Amini chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk **and** ssees-imess@ucl.ac.uk)

Please note that IMESS students are not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Jiarong HE
Dissertation title:	Gender Role Represented in Official Media: Communist Legacies and the Gap between Rhetoric and Reality.

	70+	69-65	64-60	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Knowledge *Knowledge of problems involved, e.g. historical and social context, specialist literature on the topic. Evidence of capacity to gather information through a wide and appropriate range of reading, and to digest and process knowledge.*			C			
Analysis & Interpretation *Demonstrates a clear grasp of concepts. Application of appropriate methodology and understanding; willingness to apply an independent approach or interpretation recognition of alternative interpretations; Use of precise terminology and avoidance of ambiguity; avoidance of excessive generalisations or gross oversimplifications.*		B				
Structure & Argument *Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of an argument limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.*		B				
Presentation & Documentation *Accurate and consistently presented footnotes and bibliographic references; accuracy of grammar and spelling; correct and clear presentation of charts/graphs/tables or other data. Appropriate and correct referencing throughout. Correct and contextually correct handling of quotations.*			C			
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*		B				

ECTS Mark:		**UCL Mark:**	65	**Marker:**	Agnieszka Kubal
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	9.06.2022

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+): *Note: marks of over 80 are given rarely and only for truly exceptional pieces of work.*
Distinctively sophisticated and focused analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

B(UCL mark 65-69):
A high level of analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

C (UCL mark 60-61):
Some evidence of critical analysis, knowledgeable interpretation. Wide range of sources used to develop a logic and coherent argument. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, the extent of independent research could have improved.

D (UCL mark 59-55):
Employ relevant sources and show ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Little critical analysis of the material. It demonstrate methodological awareness but the standard and rigor of the analysis can improve.

E (UCL mark 54-50):
Mostly descriptive argument. Employ relevant but limited sources. The structure, logic and overall quality of the argument needs improvement.

F (UCL mark less than 50):
Demonstrates failure to use sources and an inadequate ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Inadequate evidence of ability to engage in sustained research work and poor understanding of appropriate research techniques.

Comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (*at least 300 words*):

This is potentially a very important dissertation that comparatively looks at how gender has been represented in major broad-sheet newspapers in Russia and China. The research question is theoretically embedded. The structure of the dissertation is clear and the different sections and paragraphs flow logically one from another. The sources used to support the arguments in this dissertation have been well documented. The student has read broadly, and it is clearly visible that a lot of work went into this dissertation. The biggest strength of this work is that it is based on primary research, the student, relying on both qualitative and quantitative content analysis went through the different issues of the major broad-sheets in China (People's Daily) and Russia (Rabotnitsa).

First, I am wondering however whether these two papers are directly comparable. People's Daily was the main way of the Communist Party of China communicating with the society, across different classes, genders and sections. Rabotnitsa, on the other hand, was a typical magazine for women. Its audience were specifically Soviet women and girls. Given that the these both papers were aimed at different audiences it is rather clear that the messages of the state propaganda would be tailored differently. Also, more women were among the editorial board members of Rabotnitsa hence its editorial policy would have been shaped differently.

Second, while IMESS students are not required to use specific types of methods it would be more structurally clear to present the methodology chapter as separate from Chapters 3 and 4 (e.g. as a self-standing Chapter 3) especially given the comparative nature of this paper. The different methodological observations (e.g. the different codes used by the student) would come up more clearly then – at the moment they are buried under a lot of contextual information relating to the 'specificity' of China or Russia. Also, the chances of repetition of big chunks of text would be significantly reduced.

Finally, I am puzzled by the detailed presentation of the quantitative results of the female images used by the different papers, without actually reproducing some of them. What do these 'dry' numbers tell us? I would also recommend a thorough proofreading of this dissertation, including the tables used, as sometimes they are corrupted and not easily readable (e.g. graph on p. 27).

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 2 questions*):

1. **Could you please explain the advantages and disadvantages of the quantitative content analysis as used in this paper? What was the purpose of it?**
2. **Could you please explain the major contribution to the scholarship made by your dissertation?**