

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism

MA THESIS REVIEW

NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!

Review type (choose one):

Review by thesis supervisor Review by opponent

Thesis author:

Surname and given name: McCauley Amina

Thesis title: Sources and framing: a comparison of media coverage of climate change across the world

Reviewer:

Surname and given name: Němcová Tejkalová Alice

Affiliation: ICSJ

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Methodology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Thesis structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific):

2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	C
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	B
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	B
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and to use them correctly	B
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	B
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	B

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems): Theoretical framework partially stands on inappropriate work with sources (see later in the third part of evaluation). It is also partially written more in the journalistic discourse than in the academic one. Especially parts about the climate change resemble more a good written feature than a scientific work (this impression is further supported by the titles of the chapters). I appreciate the detailed description of used methods, even though I would analyse more articles when using quantitative content analysis.

3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
3.1	Quality of the structure	B
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	B
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	B
3.4	Quality, quantity and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	D

3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	D
3.6	Use of an academic writing style, and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	B
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	B

(*) in case the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; in case the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems):

According to the Turnitin analysis, in the Theoretical framework there are repetitively used parts of texts, which were taken with the same wording from other authors' texts. Those texts are referenced in the thesis but these parts are not used as direct quotations in quotation marks (as they should be) but as paraphrases. Even though the texts are referenced in the thesis, still, it is an improper handling with a text of other author and should definitely be avoided.

I can demonstrate it on quite a long paragraph on pages 13 and 14.

"A recent study (Hase et al., 2021) aimed also to look at news media coverage of climate change across the globe, of both the Global South and the Global North, examining how the level of issue attention differs between these parts of the world. They looked at coverage and the changes between 2008 and 2016. The authors suggested that focusing on how climate change impacts public health or on what actions people can take may foster public engagement. While the crisis is global, Hase et al. (2021) posit, it affects different countries very differently. They found that climate change received less attention in countries from the Global South, but when covered in the Global South, tended to focus more on the societal dimension of climate change and in particular its impacts on humans. It also found that while attention increased in Namibia, the UK and the US, it decreased only in Australia. Trends were inconsistent elsewhere. In the case of Australia, this shows that while in 2008 media attention to climate change was high, it has decreased since then. Australia was the only country in this study whereby there was a significant decline in media coverage of climate change over this time period. (Hase et al., 2021)."

Parts: "news media coverage of climate change across the globe", "focusing on how climate change impacts public health or on", "change received less attention in countries from the Global South", "more on the societal dimension of climate change...in particular its impacts on humans", "attention increased in Namibia, the UK and the US...decreased...in Australia", "inconsistent elsewhere" were all taken directly from Hase's paper, without being in the quotation marks and without a reference leading to the pages from which they were copied.

4. OVERAL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis's strengths and weaknesses):

Amina McCauley's thesis is based on reasonable concepts and focuses on the important topic. A comparison of newspapers in two Global South and Global North countries is a very good idea, the research was well conducted and the findings are interesting, even though some of them not so surprising.

5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:

5.1	Do you think that the approach of a medium towards the climate change can be influenced by the ownership (could there be difference in content of a medium published in Global South but owned by corporations from the Global North and the regional ones)?
5.2	How would you compare the attitude of Danish and Czech media to the climate change?
5.3	
5.4	

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

The reviewer is familiar with the thesis' URKUND score.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	The used sources are all referenced but sometimes small parts of the texts are acknowledged as paraphrases but in fact they are direct quotations, as mentioned above. The sources are referenced in the text. Anyway, it is necessary to quote the parts with the same wording taken from other authors' text directly in quotations marks.
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7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)

A excellent

B very good (above average but with some weaknesses)

- C** good (average with some important weaknesses)
D satisfactory (below average with significant weaknesses)
E marginal pass (meeting minimal requirements)
F not recommended for defence

If the mark is an “F”, please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:

Date: 4th September 2022

Signature:

A finalised review should be printed, signed and submitted in two copies to the secretary of the Department of Media Studies. The electronic version of the review should be converted into a PDF and uploaded to SIS, or sent to the Department of Media Studies secretary who will upload it to SIS on the reviewer’s behalf.

Do not upload PDFs with a scanned signature, the review uploaded to SIS must be without signature.