IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

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Dissertation Title	The securitisation of human development in Russia – Does it allow for a Russian human security doctrine?

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade	*Reviewer 2 Initial Grade*	*Late Submission Penalty*
Select from drop down list	*Select from drop down list*	*no penalty*

Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)
Word Count: 22.000   *Suggested Penalty:* no penalty

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).   *Before Penalty:* B2 [16]   *After Penalty:* B2 [16]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• *Originality of topic*	Good
• *Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified*	Excellent
• *Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work*	Excellent
• *Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions*	Very Good
• *Application of theory and/or concepts*	Very Good
B. Use of Source Material This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• *Evidence of reading and review of published literature*	Good
• *Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument*	Excellent
• *Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence*	Very Good
• *Accuracy of factual data*	Very Good
C. Academic Style This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• *Appropriate formal and clear writing style*	Excellent
• *Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation*	Excellent
• *Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)*	Excellent
• *Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?*	Yes
• *Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)*	Not required
• *Appropriate word count*	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This dissertation sets out to understand whether Russian security doctrine securitises human development and if so, to what extent this constitutes a distinctly Russian conceptualisation of human security. In doing so, the author has identified an interesting research topic and a promising area of study at the interface of national security doctrine, human security and human development. The dissertation demonstrates a strong command of relevant literature and skill in critically analysing points of divergence and consensus within it. There is commendable attention to a clear and logical overview of methodological choices, including reasonable specificity on source selection, language barriers and so forth. Although the application of the theoretical approach to the particular case study is, in places, convincing and sophisticated, the claim that the dissertation has uniquely categorised human security from narrow to broad and broader, risks being over-stated, and would have benefited from deeper engagement with literature beyond Owen (2004) alone, as similar approaches are documented in more recent scholarship. As a result, the attention dedicated to establishing this baseline (and the highly descriptive quality of some of this section) detracts somewhat from its application in a potentially more detailed and persuasive case study. Similarly, the ambition of the study to determine to what extent a specifically Russian understanding of human security is not fully realised: to achieve this, the dissertation would have benefited from a broader comparative perspective that would enable the author to conclude a specific conceptualisation is somehow distinctly or inherently Russian. By contrast, the study mainly maps findings onto the study's conceptual framework which does not lead necessarily to the conclusion that this is a distinctly Russian approach. Overall, the dissertation is well-written and clearly presented.

Reviewer 2

This is a difficult dissertation to assess. On the one hand, the author knows the existing literature on human security and on Russian security policies and practices; the thesis has a very solid reseach design and all the standard features one would expect in such a thesis tick the boxes. On the other, the combination of key parts of the topic does not make much sense from my perspective, having studied human security for long. I think there are a few initial misundesratndings on the basis of which the consequent attempt of "squaring" human development, human security, "Russian" distinct way of it, and Russian state apparatus together is problematic. The idea, and the argument. First, it is not generally - and uncritically - accepted that securitization of human development leads to human security. So is not human secutity/human rights connection. There are critical studies going beyond this, and they are not featured in the analysis. The other problem is related to putting premium on the popular yet possibly erroneous (academically, though it has been a potent division in policy-making) distinction between broad and narrow. These are oft-breaten conceptual divisions which serve very little purpose within the confines of this work and its focus. MOre attention should have been paid to the the ways in which the Russian state apparatus has attempted to negate/incorporate elements of human development/security/rights and for what purposes, processes, and consequences (intended and unintended). I suppose part of the problem here lies in the author wanting to ascertain the policy-making potential for human security to become a notable force for Russia as a country, rather than a focused, meticulous examination of its multifaceted nature, which inevitably involves the hybrids of national/human security; development/security; security/righs; broad/narrow, rather then their separation into ideal-typical forms in which they have not existed.