

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2145248 DCU 18114288 Charles 64740687
Dissertation Title	Innovative Peacekeeping: The Potential of Digital Technologies in CSDP Operations

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade <i>Select from drop down list</i>	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade <i>Select from drop down list</i>	Late Submission Penalty <i>no penalty</i>
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: 21,090 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: B3 [15] **After Penalty:** B3 [15]

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

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ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This dissertation sets out to assess the potential value of innovative digital technologies to EU CSDP peacekeeping operations, under the rubric of 'innovative peacekeeping.' The research topic is reasonably well justified and the dissertation is logically structured and sequenced. In terms of factual accuracy, the dissertation employs terms including peacekeeping, peace operations, peace interventions, military operations and humanitarian assistance interchangeably at times, and moves fluidly through discussions of these different concepts, although they refer to different activities which in some cases have distinct legal bases, mandates, underlying principles, etc. Similarly, the literature review and empirical analyses move frequently between discussion of UN and EU operations, although there are important distinctions between these. Greater attention to specificity in operationalising key terms and setting parameters on the areas of focus would have added value. The synthesis of literature and later analysis sections demonstrate clear engagement with relevant material, but this often appears to take the form of summarising - rather than critical evaluating or synthesising - available studies. Greater critical engagement and consideration of counter-arguments, would have strengthened the dissertation. Specifically, there is limited engagement with the questions of whether, and with what ethical implications, digital technologies might be used in peace operations - a gap that had it been addressed, would have brought the dissertation into closer alignment with the theoretical framework outlined. Overall, the dissertation is clear, well-written and well-referenced.

Reviewer 2

This is a potentially very interesting dissertation on a yet underdeveloped topic of digitalization in/of peace support missions, with an empirical focus on EU and her CSDP missions. However, I feel the thesis does not fulfil the potential of the topic conceptually, in terms of the argument and its critical consideration, and empirically. The author puts an equation between innovation of peace support practice and digital technologies. This is the first issue that would deserve more attention, both generally and within the empirical domain studied: does more digitalization inevitably lead to greater innovation? This is particularly pressing when the tech side is considered from its inherently dual/omni-use/functional perspective. While I am aware that this "digital idealism" is also a problem of much of the existing - and naïve - academic literature, the redress would be particularly welcome here when the argument gets married with the topic where legitimacy, consent seeking, and sticking to rules of engagement all mean it needs to be one of the central issues. The other problematic issue from my perspective, which bogs the thesis down, is the conceptual ignorance of different types of peace operations which are normally put under the generic (and politically charged) label peace support operations. Surely, not only there is a great difference between peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding, and peace-enforcement in terms of their political, legal, and security bases but, additionally, there are very different ways in which, say, militarily-robust peace-enforcement Vs.diplomatically-oriented peacemaking can make the use of digital technologies. On a balance, the student has shown a decent level of orientation in the literature, the workmanship issues of formatting, style and referencing seem to be adequate.