

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2573293 DCU 20190334 Charles 60882092 Trento
Dissertation Title	Misinformation & Pegasus Project: Case study of India

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade A4 [19]	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade A4 [19]	Late Submission Penalty no penalty
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1 gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
Word Count: 22,635 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: A4 [19] **After Penalty:** N/A

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	Excellent
• 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	Very 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	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• Appropriate formal and clear writing style	Excellent

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• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Very Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	-Select from list-
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The dissertation investigates the case of the Pegasus spyware and the way in which Indian media informed public about the incident. The analyzed case is unique, since there has not been a government-sponsored misinformation campaign concerning a discovered use of spyware. Clearly, the strongest dimension of the dissertation is its methodology, combining several methods useful for processing textual and relational data. From the disciplinary point of view, there is a clear effort to connect the methodology with the existing conceptualization of mis/disinformation in Security Studies. However, the results of applying the ensemble of methods could have been interpreted in a deeper and much more comprehensive way. This is a considerable shame, considering the effort that went into processing the data. Additionally, some methodological choices, resulting in a relatively complex framework, could be done differently. Namely, the content analysis that involves several methods could be done using probabilistic topic modelling, decreasing the methodological complexity and increasing the coherence and amount of information that could be gathered from the analysis. Overall, this is an excellent dissertation on an original topic, using a solid methodological framework and representative dataset.

Reviewer 2

This is an impressive thesis in terms of the tools and techniques used to gather and present data. The author clearly has great expertise and must be highly commended for the extensive use of graphics and visual presentation of findings.

There is however, a weakness in terms of analysis and interpretation which could have been easily addressed. The author presents a detailed depiction of the empirical phenomenon (Project Pegasus) and delivers a comprehensive literature review that establishes the relationship between traditional media and social media, highlighting the variable of trust as playing a central role in enabling the dissemination of misinformation. Throughout this section (which sometimes suffers from extremely long paragraphs, pp 16 - 18), there could have been more links drawn to the thesis' research question.

Furthermore, the justification of the Indian case study remains largely descriptive and is not linked to the literature review. The claim is made that, "the problem of misinformation in India is understudied and focussed mostly only on sectarian or castes analysis of the problem instead of a societal approach". Nothing is mentioned anywhere about the focus on sectarian and caste analyses and the author could have elaborated further on the added value of a 'societal approach' in explaining the Indian case. Nonetheless, the research objective is clearly identified and the research design is highly impressive.