

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2573877B DCU Charles Trento
Dissertation Title	Brothers in Espionage: Examining the Relationship between the Stasi and the KGB

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade	Late Submission Penalty <i>Select from drop down list</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: Suggested Penalty: <i>Select from drop down list</i>		

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: B1 [17] **After Penalty:** Select from drop down list

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>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Very Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Very 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>	Excellent
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent

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• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <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>	Not required
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The aim of this dissertation was to analyse the Cold War-era relationship between KGB and Stasi in a broader context of collaboration between intelligence services. The dissertation skilfully navigates between three topics – intelligence studies, the history of KGB, and the history of Stasi. A thorough discussion of limitations experienced by contemporary intelligence studies (especially the West-centric bias) was followed by the introduction of a theoretical framework. With regard to the framework, a discussion of the two most relevant works (Hoffman's and Hatfield's) could have been placed in one rather than two distinct sections.

The methodology section presented all the steps the Author undertook within the research process and the limitations they encountered. The literature review chapter demonstrates broad familiarity with all the three topics relevant for the dissertation.

Whereas the framework employed in the dissertation – an analysis of inter-state, inter-institutional and inter-personal ties – is a big plus, its application in practice seems at times superficial. The inter-state relationship could have been explored beyond the establishment of Stasi. The concluding chapter repeats a number of assertions already made in the preceding "Analysis and discussion" chapter. It is a bit surprising that the most recent literature on relations between the KGB and the Stasi is discussed in the "Analysis and discussion" chapter rather than constitutes a part of the literature review. Similarly, the section dedicated to the KGB in the post-Soviet Russia seems a bit detached from the main topic of the dissertation.

Reviewer 2

Originality of the work – as it is clear also from the attached from bibliography, topic of the relationship between KGB and their partners from the Soviet bloc countries is not fully new but the systematic and focused approach to this topic by author of this dissertation can be considered as original and interesting.

Only one and very general research question can be accepted but more suitable would be to set more specific questions at least in according to the corroborated areas / levels – state, institutional, personal. In this case, also conclusions could be more precise and more specific.

Minor formal and other deficiencies were identified – e.g. using of "I" form (p. 17, 18), contradicted statements (p. 27).

On the other hand, it is necessary to appreciate wide and complex bibliography and its text review as well as very logical and systematic approach of author to the topic. Also the author ability to reduce (but not too simplify) very complex and big issue and to identify significant points should be positively assessed.