

IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2163093 DCU Charles Trento
Dissertation Title	Politicization of Religious (Hindutva) Ideologies Fostering Extremism & Anti Minority Sentiments ----- India Under Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) Post 2014 General Elections

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade D1 (11)	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade D1	Late Submission Penalty Select from drop down list
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: 22,337 Suggested Penalty: Select from drop down list		

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: D1 **After Penalty:** D3

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	Satisfactory
• Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified	Weak
• Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work	Weak
• Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions	Weak
• Application of theory and/or concepts	Weak
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	Weak
• Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence	Weak
• Accuracy of factual data	Satisfactory
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• Appropriate formal and clear writing style	Weak

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• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Weak
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Good
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	No
• <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

You demonstrate very good knowledge of the subject and you have identified a highly interesting theme for your dissertation; you also make several important observations and you have consulted a range of relevant sources.

However, unfortunately the dissertation remains at very a general level and doesn't include an in-depth analysis of selected sources.

The writing style is sometimes journalistic, and at times the dissertation reads more like a long report rather than academic writing. What is referred to as 'analysis' is more an overview of existing issues. Because of the high levels of generality, some of the interesting observations (for example, the role of masculinity in the 2014 parliamentary elections) are only addressed very briefly and superficially.

The range of issues included in the dissertation is very broad: you include the rise of BJP after 2014, the politicisation of Hindutva ideologies, and also the impact of politicisation (discrimination and marginalisation of minorities, and anti-minority sentiments among the Hindu population). None of these points are analysed in-depth; it would have helped to have articulated more targeted research objectives, research question(s) and a clear, concise argument.

Another issue with the dissertation is that it doesn't have a clear conceptual framework. You refer briefly to some relevant concepts, and to secularisation theory. This is however treated very briefly and not directly applied to specific findings.

The methodology chapter is very general and unclear. You could have selected specific primary sources and analysed them in-depth (you mostly use secondary sources). For example, you could have analysed policies, speeches by Modi and other BJP candidates, to identify the main narratives arising from them. You attempt to provide a structure, and include signposts to guide the reader, yet the dissertation is quite unstructured, with numerous repetitions and digressions

Be careful about including assertions without providing any evidence (for example, you say that 'the Hindutva ideology mutated to the forefront of Indian politics. Providing it legitimacy and institutional framework it was craving since the nation's independence.' What is your evidence for this? This is what I mean by 'journalistic' style rather than rigorous academic research).

You use quite sophisticated language, but often your sentences are convoluted. The writing could have been more concise and precise (sometimes the meaning is unclear). Several sentences are grammatically incorrect and would have benefitted from more thorough proofreading.

Finally, we have applied a penalty because there are instances of minor plagiarism. By this we mean not that you have plagiarised entire sections of your dissertation, but that you have copied sentences, or parts of sentences. This still amounts to plagiarism and these instances are picked up by plagiarism software. You need to make sure that you always use your own words, or alternatively indicate clearly that you are citing from a text by placing the expressions in question in inverted commas.

Reviewer 2

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There are a number of issues with the dissertation. At first, the title is unclear. The 'Q' in the title presumably implies a question but there is none. Unfortunately, this ambiguity persists throughout the thesis and the research question is never clearly specified. For example on p9 the author writes, that the "next section addresses the core question of rise of the Hindutva ideology to the centre stage of Indian politics and how the BJP has politicised it giving rise to an authoritarianism, majoritarianism and identity politics within India".

The politicisation of Hindutva is an extremely pertinent research topic and the literature review could have examined the various lenses through which this has been analysed – as cultural / political ideology and as an instrumental electoral strategy. The outcomes of this politicisation process should have been theorised as well in order to demonstrate the ways in which Hindutva impacts the system. By not engaging with theory, the thesis lacks logical rigour and presents a description of events and developments rather than analysis. In terms of methodology, there are also problems. The thesis claims to employ "the qualitative method of discourse analysis of secondary data in terms to various documents, news sites, government documents, and historical writings to establish an understanding of the rise of religious Hindu nationalism under the present BJP government post-2014" (p4). The section goes on to state that a "data-set of peer-reviewed journal articles, historical documents, and analyses of discursive from diverse theoretical and empirical perspectives" but the dataset is not presented or documented anywhere in the thesis. As a result, the method used to collect material and the analytical categories applied, remain opaque.