



## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

• 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 "An inevitable collision: health, biology, and security in times of pandemic" written by Miss Sarah Jeanne Adam is very well done. It fully satisfied my expectations with its clear formulations, good language, the precise definition of chapters, subject description of the study, correctly-cited recent literature, and adequate scope. A comparative study design is a good choice because the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic is not the first or last global pandemic and humans are to learn from their past.

#### **Reviewer 2**

***This is an intelligent dissertation exploring the nexus between the COVID-19 pandemic and the revival in the international debate on biosecurity. The student has demonstrated to be able to devise a doable programme of research that meets the scope of the IMSISS programme of study, and also has showed deep familiarity and command with the literature on securitization, biosecurity and current events. The dissertation is well written and show the ability of the student to conduct independent research. What penalises the dissertation is the execution of the research programme. The dissertation sets to study 'the indirect consequences generated by the securitization of COVID-19 on security and biosecurity debates at the international level' p. 10 - in this regard, the dissertation does not want to look at how the covid-19 pandemic has been securitize but how the securitization of the pandemic has affected biosecurity debates. However, despite the stated intent, the focus of the dissertation does remain overwhelmingly on the securitization issue, while scant discussion or empirical evidence is provided to either demonstrate or analyse how the global discourse on biosecurity has shifted as a result. What is also puzzling in the dissertation is the organization of the argument, with the methodology and theoretical framework preceding the literature review, and the securitization theory being dedicated a single chapter when the focus was on biosecurity. A further weakness of the dissertation rests on the research design and data analysis. I am left wondering why a comparative case study design (between ebola dn covid-19) was chosen as the best design to assess how the covid 19 pandemic has influenced international debates on biosecurity - a single case study design and a content analysis methodology might have proven more useful here. In the methodology section the dissertation states that the material under analysis are reports from the international community, most specifically the EU, Australia and the US, but there is little analysis of these reports at all. In the empirical section dedicated to the core of the argument - which comes a bit too late in my advice - we learn of how the scientific community has boosted research on viruses and also addressed the issue of biosecurity, but this is the international community of scientists and scholars now of states and government as the dissertation promises to do. As such, I find the dissertation intelligent in terms of the research question posed and with plenty of potential, but I am left perplexed by the execution of the research in several fundamental respects.***