IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

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Dissertation Title	Insecurity Unveiled? China and Israel's Use of AI and Mass Surveillance for National Security and Identity

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: 21862 ***Suggested Penalty:*** *no penalty*

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

> ***Final Agreed Mark*** *:* A5 [18]

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*	Very Good
• *Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified*	Excellent
• *Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work*	Very Good
• *Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions*	Excellent
• *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*	Excellent
• *Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument*	Excellent
• *Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence*	Excellent
• *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
• *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 is an original and ambitious dissertation. The structure is logical and the argument easy to follow. The dissertation is well embedded in the topical literature and demonstrates the Author's familiarity with key debates in the field (even though the discussion of the concept of insecurity could have been more concise and focused). The counter-intuitive choice of case studies is well justified. Both the case studies and their comparison demonstrate a nuanced approach to the problem. The analytical framework could have been applied more systematically in empirical chapters. The Author is aware of limitations of the research.

Reviewer 2

The dissertation investigates how supposed security practices create instead new insecurities. Critical theory on securitization and other theories are nicely used to capture the issue conceptually. The main problem is that the links between a well-prepared conceptual framework and the empirical analysis are rather weak. The theoretical discussion is too broad and lacks a focus, which would allow it to be applied to the particular cases without frictions. That being said, the analysis of Xinjiang and OPT are exceptionally well done. Overall, both parts, theoretical as well as empirical, are done well, however, more could be done in creating a robust connection that would allow the dissertation to fully unpack how security practices can be turned into new insecurities for oppressed peoples.