



# Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2022/2023

**Student's name and surname:** Alketa Hotaj  
**Student's ID:** 59559631

**Type of the study programme:** Master's (post-Bachelor)  
**Study programme:** International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies (IMSIS)

**Study ID:** 722492

**Title of the thesis:** Deconstructing the Securitization of Albanian Migration in British Media: A Critical Analysis of Coverage from 2021-2022  
**Thesis department:** Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** doc. PhDr. Vít Štřítecký, M.Phil., Ph.D.  
**Date of defence:** 21.09.2023    **Venue of defence:** Praha  
**Attempt:** regular

**Course of defence:** The student introduced her topic which was about the representation of Albanian immigrants in the UK media. The student began with the explanation of why she chose her topic, showing its relevance and a major gap in the existing literature. That said, the student introduced her two research questions and her theoretical framework which was grounded in securitization and identity representation theory. She then explained her methodology and described which media sources she considered and in what time period, explaining her choices through recourse to real-world events. Further, she detailed better how she conducted her research, how she chose articles and following that generated themes. Moving on to empirical findings, the student first focused on the general trends, detailing the difference between the different media, underlining the greater prevalence in right-leaning media, and explaining how the content in the media was structured, according to which criteria and commenting on the coverage prevalence and distribution. The student then was urged by the committee to move to the conclusion. The student described the findings of her second part and concluded that her findings were that the right-leaning media securitized Albanian immigrants. Moving on to critiques: the student mentioned that she was dissatisfied with some of the comments. She said that she agreed with the less critical reviewer, who emphasized that the student used the Paris school of securitization but in fact only one scholar of the tradition, one not necessarily the most representative. The other reviewer suggested that there were problems with the general analytical logic, esp. that themes should emerge from data not literature review. The student countered that the literature helped but did not determine the findings. The student then also mentioned that she disagreed with the reviewer on the issue of being too

descriptive, arguing that this was necessary to help make her case; she also disagreed that she had not properly differentiated between such terms as migrants, refugees, etc. - referring specific pages in her thesis. The committee cut in but the student still mentioned that she was let down by the reviews. The student then suggested that her topic was a bit political and that it may have something to do with it. The committee explained that it is rather that how academia works, nothing personal or political. The student thanked but said that still did not understand some of the comments. The committee thanked the student, suggested she might try publishing the work, and announced her successful completion of the defense.

<b>Result of defence:</b>	excellent (B)	
<b>Chair of the board:</b>	prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present)	.....
<b>Committee members:</b>	Marcin Kaczmarski, Dr. (present)	.....
	Sarah Leonard (present)	.....