

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow</b> 2679272 <b>DCU</b> 21111049 <b>Charles</b> 45888844
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	Beyond Gender Norms and Role Expectations: Revising Counterterrorism Strategies in Iraq and Jordan

<b>Word Count Penalty</b> (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)		
<b>Word Count:</b> 21306 <b>Suggested Penalty:</b> no penalty		

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

**Final Agreed Mark:** A3 [20]

### DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
<b>A. Structure and Development of Answer</b>	
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>	Excellent
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Very Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Very Good
<b>B. Use of Source Material</b>	
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>	Very Good
• <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
<b>C. Academic Style</b>	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <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>	No

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### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

The topic, little researched before, is relevant in the context of current preoccupation to respond to the challenge posed by female terrorism. The findings cover an important gap in the literature by dismantling gendered stereotypes and revealing women's involvement in a wide-ranging terrorist activity beyond martyrdom. The cases of Iraq and Jordan have been well chosen as both countries developed important tools to fight against terrorism and in both, the presence of female terrorism is significant.

The Introduction is well written, pointing out the rationale of this research in a logical manner. The literature review covers a wide range of relevant sources on gender and terrorism up until the latest findings, in order to address terrorism, gendered norms, misconceptions, women's involvement in Jihadist terrorist organisations and their impact upon counterterrorist policies, and to provide a theoretical framework for the dissertation. I appreciate your effort to avoid bias, comparing the literature authored by Western and Arab Muslim scholars, combined with first-hand accounts and official documents to explain women's role in society, generally, and in Jihad particularly. The methodology, detailed in the following chapter, is adequate to the purpose of your investigation and well explained. The in-depth analysis of various sources pertinently portrays the situation in regard to female terrorism and counterterrorist policies, bringing to light new and significant aspects. The only weakness of this research is the absence of complementary methods such as interviews that would have added value to your investigation. I appreciate, however, that you mentioned the limitations of your research and convincingly explained the reasons of these limitations.

Overall, I appreciate your effort to explore the topic and I think that you did an excellent work with limited resources. Moreover, your research has the potential to open the door to further investigations in a field which will remain extremely relevant for years to come. Well done!

#### **Reviewer 2**

The dissertation is generally well-written and well-referenced. Overall, the student has identified a gap in the existing scholarship and has addressed it effectively. The literature review demonstrates a good level of engagement with the existing literature, albeit rather uncritically at times. Moreover, some claims are somewhat over-stated. For instance, given the significant number of works that have been published on gender and (counter-)terrorism, it is not entirely convincing to claim as the author does that '[scholars] have traditionally overlooked gender as a variable in researching terrorism' (p. 13). Likewise, the presentation of Critical Terrorism Studies is - ironically - uncritical. It would have strengthened the dissertation to engage with the literature that has reflected on what exactly is new or critical in Critical Terrorism Studies. One would have expected to see a separate chapter presenting a theoretical or analytical framework. Some conceptual considerations are offered, but those are quite limited and it is unclear why they are in the same chapter as the literature review. The following chapter presents the methodology in a clear and convincing manner, although some elements would actually have better fitted into a theoretical/analytical framework chapter. The author notably mentions undertaking self-reflexivity exercises. It would have been interesting to be able to find out more about those, given how critical the author is of what they perceive to be biases in the existing scholarship. The case studies are well-chosen and present insightful findings. The final chapter presents clear and nuanced conclusions, although the broader implications of the study could have been stated more strongly and further unpacked, especially as there were still words available in the wordcount for that purpose.



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