



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

Academic year: 2022/2023

Student's name and surname: Alessia Borg
Student's ID: 75264825

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

Study ID: 685644

Title of the thesis: The instrumentalisation of child trafficking: Competing discursive constructions between the US Government and QAnon?
Thesis department: Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Ian Paterson, Dr.
Date of defence: 22.09.2023 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: The student began by outlining her motivation and aims, couching them both in theoretical and empirical considerations. To that end, she provided a thoroughgoing debate situating the phenomenon, following which she presented her research question as well as specifying more clearly the aims of the thesis. Then, the student overviewed the existing literature in relation to securitization and suggested how she improved upon the state of the art. Next, the student described her methodology and provided the justification for her case selection. The student also explained how and why she structured her thesis the way she did. Then, the student overviewed how she operationalized the concept of securitization and explained how she used her methods to analyze data. The student then turned to her findings and offered them with reference to empirical examples. Building up on that discussion, the student explained her conclusions and linked them to wider theoretical considerations. Turning to reviews, one critique was about probing securitization normatively, but the student countered as this was not the aim of her work and mentioned that a lot of thought had to go into deciding what stays and what not within the limited scope of the thesis. The committee recommended that the student published her work. One committee member asked about the value-added of using the theory of securitization instead of going simply factually. The student provided an explanation and had a constructive debate with the member who then praised the work. Another member asked the issue of de-securitization and the student answered with recourse to both theory and real-world examples.

Result of defence:	excellent (A)	
Chair of the board:	prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Georgios Glouftsios (present)
	Marcin Kaczmarski, Dr. (present)