Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Marica Farini**

Title: **Understanding Gender Violence in Latin America: Challenges and State Responses**

Programme/year: **Institute of Political Studies Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, 2024**

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/second reader):

Mgr. Kateřina Březinová, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	23
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	28
Total		*80*	59
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	5
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	4
Total		*20*	14
TOTAL		*100*	73

Evaluation

Major criteria:

Marica Farini's Master's Thesis examines gender inequality and gender-related violence in Latin America. While focusing on the legal, political, and institutional reforms implemented in Paraguay and Argentina between 2000 and 2010, the thesis primarily explores civil society activism advocating for gender equality and the end of gender-based violence in these societies.

The thesis is grounded in liberal and radical feminist theory, drawing on the works of thinkers such as Graham (2023), Lagarde (2006), and Carcedo (2002). While some of the scholarship, excluding Graham, is slightly dated, Ms. Farini provides insightful analysis into the multifaceted dynamics of gender violence, encompassing cultural, political, and socio-economic dimensions on pages 16-20. Additionally, she explores conceptual differences in defining gender violence between the UN and the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC). Following Carcedo and other feminist theorists, she attributes violence against women not to psychological factors in men but to a system of repression that compels men to assert their superiority within society (Carcedo, 2002, p.11). Addressing the phenomenon of feminicide that plagued Latin American societies during the period under scrutiny, the author correctly points to systemic, societal factors rather than individual explanations for such criminal behavior. The reference to the "ecological model of violence" is appreciated, as it explains feminicide as a link between individual, relational, community, and social factors, suggesting that the structure of a society can lead to violence against women (WHO, n.d.).

Methodologically, the study employs two qualitative case studies. First, the author identifies specific initiatives undertaken by both states regarding the legal and institutional framework aimed at dismantling systemic barriers that perpetuate gender inequalities. Second, she examines the principal non-state, civil society actors in both countries, analyzing their responses to gender violence and the tools used in their advocacy and political work. These are Paraguay's feminist political party Kuña Pyrenda as well as the phenomenon of Las Residentas; and the Argentinian „Ni Una Menos movement". Ms. Farini contrasts the actions of these movements, the tools they use in their activism, and their implications at the regional and international levels, highlighting their role in redefining the discourse on gender equality and women's rights in Latin America. The case selection is justified implicitly.

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To achieve the goals of the Thesis, several research questions are formulated. These are:
1. What are the main problems related to gender violence within the Paraguayan and Argentinian society?
2. Which resources did Kuña Pyrenda and Ni Una Menos use to address gender violence?
3. How are these two movement different from each other?
4. What are the legal and institutional responses to gender violence in Paraguay and Argentina, and how effective have they been in addressing the issue?

These research questions, though conceived rather broadly, are sufficiently addressed throughout the subsequent chapters. The author clearly tries to adopt an analytical, interpretative stance. However, the text largely remains descriptive in nature, and greater analytical depth would be welcome for a Master's level thesis.

Minor criteria:

The writing process of this dissertation was paused and rather lengthy. However, the candidate made visible improvements, especially concerning her engagement with the theoretical framework and her awareness of specialized literature. This is perhaps the most important advancement I have noticed as a thesis supervisor, and the one Ms. Farini can be applauded for.

As noted above, the source material could reflect more recent scholarship. The phenomena under scrutiny here—Kuña Pyrenda, Las Residentas, and Ni Una Menos—have appeared in the last 10-15 years. However, most of the literature the author engages with was published before this period.

Moreover, the thesis suffers from citation incoherence and indiscipline. Examples of this practice abound in the text. For instance: on pages 9-10, the Graham quote lacks page numbers; on page 16, there is no reference for the cited source; and on page 25, the reference is incomplete.

Assessment of plagiarism:
The text is free of plagiarism.

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Overall evaluation:

Marica Farini's Master's thesis inquires into gender inequality and gender-related violence in Latin America between 2000 and 2010. The thesis is grounded in liberal and radical feminist theory, which is well justified. The author delves into two qualitative case studies: the first focuses on Paraguay, particularly on the feminist political party Kuña Pyrenda and the phenomenon of Las Residentas; the second examines the Argentine "Ni Una Menos" movement. The cases under scrutiny offer a relevant, interesting contribution to the state of our knowledge, and the phenomena of Kuña Pyrenda and Las Residentas are largely underresearched. The author generally uses appropriate language and style. More analytical depth would be welcome for a Master's level thesis. However, the quotation standard should be significantly improved as explained above. Notwithstanding these shortcomings, Ms. Marica Farini has demonstrated satisfactory academic capabilities in her thesis.

I can recommend it for defense with a suggested grade of "good lower."

Suggested grade:

Good lower (73)

Signature:

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