

## IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow 2654295 DCU 22110372 Charles Trento</b>
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	What are the challenges of countering transnational organised crime? A case study in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

		<b>Late Submission Penalty</b> no penalty
<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: 22,552 Suggested Penalty: no penalty</b>		

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

**Final Agreed Mark.** (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).

**Before Penalty:** B1 [17]      **After Penalty:** B1 [17]

### 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>	Very Good
• <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>	Very Good
• <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>	Very Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Excellent
• <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>	Very Good
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Yes

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- *Appropriate word count*

No

### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

The dissertation focuses on transnational organised crime and its mitigation, with a case study of the Rio/Brazil context and the applicability of the nodal governance approach. Overall, the dissertation is very good, with excellent components, it seeks to engage with the complexities of TOC – its conditions, the objectives which underpin it, its manifold (local and transnational) activities as well as the law enforcement/policing challenges in mitigating/governing it. The dissertation reflects on the scholarly literature on nodal and networked governance to assess its applicability to the Brazilian context. The topic is timely and important and very few scholarly articles engage with the topic in this way in terms of the depth of empirical engagement as well as applying the nodal framing.

Overall, the dissertation has engaged with the topic very well. The literature review is generally well-sourced, interesting and extensive, reflecting on the nature, conditions, and objectives of TOC, particularly highlighting its complexity and the complexities in countering it while also reflecting on the literature on nodal and networked governance as a means to engage with complex problems. The methodology provides a frank and well-substantiated account, providing a very good rationale for the chosen methodology whilst including a keen self-reflective account. The methodology is very good overall, although it can be repetitive in places and could have focused too on the limitations of the methodological approach given the original plans and ethics application and the reliance on a documentary account. The findings and discussion chapter provides a rich and detailed account of the historical and contemporary developments of TOC in Brazil/Rio, very effectively drawing on a range of sources and highlighting the complexity of the phenomenon and contextual nuance of the case study. A range of interesting issues come out of this – the hybrid nature of the militias, state/police legitimacy issues, power vacuum challenges, corruption, and the crime-terror nexus. The chapter concludes with a focus on the networked policing and nodal governance model. Given these themes above that have arisen throughout the dissertation these could have been reflected on with respect to the nodal governance model and critically analysed in light of this. The current section engages in a normative account which is sometimes repetitive and often introducing themes and other organisations/nodes not previously mentioned in the dissertation, therefore this section feels disconnected from the realities and empirical nuance of the rest of the dissertation. A more critical account of nodal governance and application to the historical and contemporary account of TOC in Rio/Brazil would improve the overall argument of the dissertation.

Overall, a well-argued, well-sourced dissertation which provides critical insights into the realities and challenges of governing TOC in the Latin American context.

#### **Reviewer 2**

The dissertation deals with countering transnational organized crime. The analysis is focused on studying the Brazilian experience, which offers a rich set of opportunities for assessing the effectiveness of policing practices. The phenomenon of transnational organized crime and its countering is introduced holistically, and it is fitting that the review of existing research culminates with nodal governance, a similarly holistic and networked concept as transnational organized crime.

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When it comes to applying nodal governance to the Brazilian case, the dissertation does its best to demonstrate implementation of network policing and nodal governance, discussing individual actors and their contributions that attempt to address the security situation stemming from transnational organized crime.

On a critical note, a multifaceted methodological framework is designed, however, its application for operationalizing nodal governance and network policing is not always clear. A clearer relation between methodology and analyzed empirical evidence would lend more persuasiveness to the findings.

All in all, this is an excellent, in-depth work on the Brazilian experience with the transnational organized crime and its countering, suffering from minor methodological issues.