EPS European Politics and Society

Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	Daniel Mihăiță Moiș
Title of the thesis:	The Return of the Far Right to Romanian Mainstream Politics: A Discourse Analysis of Calin Georgescu's Presidential Campaign
Reviewer:	PhDr. Jiří Kocián, PhD

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

Daniel Moiș chose a topic highly relevant both to the study of the contemporary far-right in Europe as well as recent developments in Romania. Specifically dealing with the case of electoral campaign discourses of Călin Georgescu from 2024, his topic was quite understudied in the moment he started elaborating his research design. He reflected mostly on the relevant theoretical literature, while also conducting literature review of the case-specific academic writing and positioned his research well in this context. His research questions are clearly formulated, connected to the theoretical debate and serve the research design well.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

Probably the greatest contribution of the thesis lies in its work with primary sources. The author conducted his own independent collection of discourses, presented on the social media account of Georgescu in the form of videos. Daniel Moiș developed his own analytical framework, manually transcribed the videos, translated the transcriptions and used his qualitative coding scheme to analyze the discursive elements. The rigorous application of this analytical framework helped him produce convincing results, which reflect both the primarily qualitative nature of his research embedded in qualitative discourse analysis, but also did not shy away from producing fundamental quantitative insights. For these reasons, I consider the work innovative and noteworthy for an MA thesis.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

As stated above, the empirical results of the thesis are relevant and convincing, the author used them appropriately to find answers to the research questions. At certain points, the theoretical discussion might use further disentanglement for the purpose of argument clarity. Nevertheless, the research represents a valid contribution to the academic debate on far right, populism and contemporary Romania.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The core of the thesis is at an excellent level of writing quality, though some parts of the thesis show slight inconsistencies in proofreading (for instance the historical chapter). The final chapters of the thesis could also use stylistic review for the purpose of clarifying the final arguments, but in general, the thesis manages to communicate its key takeaways well. The work with primary sources is excellent and owing to the appendix containing the metadata and representation of the primary sources, the thesis adheres to FAIR standards, emphasized in contemporary academic work. I also have no major objections to the general layout of the thesis.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

In general, Daniel Moiș has written a great thesis representing an original and innovative research based on primary sources collected by himself. He focused on a case which represents the most important upheaval in Romanian politics in the recent years and succeeds explaining what kind of far-right discourse it manifested, and why was it a good fit to produce this kind of electoral success.

The text should go through further stylistic and language review to provide the abovementioned

clarifications and proceed into preparation of a thesis-based publication, which I would recommend.

Prague Grade (51-100)	92	**EPS Grade (A-F)**	A
Date:	Signature:		
21.1.2026	Jiří Kocián		

EPS Grading Table

EPS Grade	Prague	Krakow	Leiden*	Barcelona
A	91-100	5.00	8,0-10	9-10
B	81-90	4.50	7,5-7,9	8-8,9
C	71-80	4.00	7-7,4	7-7,9
D	61-70	3.50	6,4-6,9	6-6,9
E	51-60	3.00	6-6,3	5-5,9