



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Gabriela Sommerová

Title: **Predicting Conflicts via Maternal Mortality Rates? Human Security and the Emergence of Armed Conflict**

Programme/year: BS/2016

Author of Evaluation (~~supervisor~~/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	40
<i>Total</i>		80	76
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	96



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis is very strong in utilized robust method that enables innovative, quantitative assessment of the relationship between human insecurity and armed conflict. Its conceptual relevance for human security and conflict theories is well explained, it also offers valuable results. I especially appreciate the following features of the thesis:

A. Possibility to treat different aspects of human (in)security separately and evaluate their individual impact on conflict occurrence, i.e. “quantitative deconstruction” of human security.

B. Possibility to avoid spurious relationships. The author is very directive in examining and excluding alternative conflict explanations except for human insecurity (or its separated parts), she carefully observes the presence of other variables (section 2.3.3) that could alternatively cause both the conflict and human insecurity (cf. supra note 15 on page 28).

In this regard, the thesis represents significant contribution on both the theoretical and methodological level. Similarly, as the author correctly recognizes, the conclusions are relevant for formulation of frequent human security centered policies as well as for further research. Following questions are just minor suggestions how to complement already high quality text, e.g. in case of turning it into an academic article, which it would highly deserve:

[1] What is the genealogy of the approach interconnecting domestic *human* conditions with conflict? Human security is just one manifestation of this approach; others are e.g. human rights (cf. Preamble of UN HR Declaration directly links inherent human dignity with the world peace in its first sentence). The answer could accompany the references to Krause and Chandler on page 13.

[2] The structure of the work is a bit unusual. Is the data-driven character of the research a reason why to start with the methodological frame and resort to conceptual delineation of human security and conflict after that?

Minor criteria:

No further comments.



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Overall evaluation:

Innovative, informative and well written thesis, the author can confidently and efficiently use relevant IR approaches and quantitative methods, which allows her to draw interesting and relevant research conclusions.

Suggested grade:

1

Signature:

Tomáš Bruner