



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Marlene Breier

Title: Hong Kongers Adding Oil: A Critical Analysis of the SAR's Pro-Democracy Movement

Programme/year: International Security Studies (2016)

Author of Evaluation (opponent): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	21
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	33
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	62
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	4
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	80



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

I highly appreciate the effort invested in the thesis, as well as the choice of the topic that is highly interesting and might well prove a recurrent theme in the analysis of the Chinese political system. The empirical basis of the thesis is solid, and the author navigates the issue with apparent surety.

Where I find the main (but not necessarily grave) flaws is the intersection of the research goals/questions, conceptualization and methodology. Most importantly, I believe the four hypotheses could have been formulated much more carefully. Firstly, the first two hypotheses are actually mutually exclusive, so they should have been formulated as an option of a single question, not separately. Hypothesis three is not really a hypothesis, rather an empirical observation. And the fourth hypothesis should have specified whose perception it concerns – the people in Hong Kong, the international audience, China...?

Secondly, I believe much more effort should have been invested in the clarification of the theoretical context and its meaning for the research. Specifically, this concerns the link (which is actually missing) between democratization and the concept of new social movements. It may well be possible to relate the two in a complex fashion, but in the thesis they just sit next to each other without communicating. Finally, the chapter “Methodology” is largely a misnomer as it apparently does not link the theory with the empirical material.

On the other hand, the author shows sufficiently detailed knowledge and analytical acumen to lift the thesis out of the theoretical-methodological confusion. And, though it is not representative, I appreciate the online survey of Hong Kong students’ opinions at the end of the thesis and especially laud its vivid interpretation.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis rests on a representative, wide and diverse set of available sources that are handled completely adequately. The text is written with a lively and accessible but still academically appropriate language.



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
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Overall evaluation:

The thesis represents an interesting and mostly able take on a relevant issue. While it succeeds analytically and at the empirical level, it should have paid more attention to the theoretical and methodological framework that remains somewhat hazy.

Suggested grade: 2

Signature: 