



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Julia Köppen

Title: Chinese Behaviour in the International Labour Organization – Status Quo or Revisionist Actor?

Programme/year: MAIN/2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Michal Parížek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	34
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	69
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	89



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

This is an interesting thesis on an under-researched, yet relevant topic. The author does a very good job formulating a clear research agenda, collecting relevant empirical evidence, and mostly systematically answering it. The topic is linked well to (rooted in) the existing debates on rising powers in IOs, the author offers a very extensive and thorough literature review on China in IOs, well done. The hypotheses presented are mostly intuitive, based on some broad economic considerations about the changing nature (level of development) of Chinese economy. It would have been nice to see the hypotheses developed more closely in connection to existing research on China or on labour issues globally (internationally).

The use of India and US as reference cases should have been clarified better – both how exactly the comparison is used (systematically?) and especially more on the suitability of US and India.

With regard to the empirical evidence, of course the author has struggled with the relative scarcity of the statements relevant directly to the forced and child labour issues. It is good that she opted for cross-checking the statements with available ILO-provided sources on actual Chinese behaviour. I would have liked, though, the presentation of the results to be more systematic, eg some summary tables would have been great. This could tell us how frequently (or rather rarely) all the individual issues are mentioned (plus out of how many opportunities), and provide for a structured comparison with IND and USA. I think the author could have gone in the direction of explicitly applying within the theses the content analysis methodology. Right now, the discussion of the empirical data is somewhat un-systematic, although exhaustive. Framing the endeavour within the content analysis method (for the statements) could have helped, although I would not want to over-do this point, as for the author the “discrepancies” subsections (behaviour x statements) are similarly relevant as the statements as such.

### Minor criteria:

Very clear and likable writing, the theses is well referenced and clearly a good piece of scholarships.



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**Overall evaluation:**

Overall, this is a strong thesis which I like for its clear focus and solid and rigorous empirical work. The results (“China as mostly status quo, but one never knows”) are not particularly strong or clear cut (controversial), but this is given by the nature of the problem and the data, not by the author. The theses could have been methodologically a bit more advanced, although I have confidence in the empirical results even as they are presented now. Good job.

Suggested grade: excellent (1)

Signature: