



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Elias Langvad

Title: Gas security in Central and Eastern Europe – A comparison between Czech Republic and Hungary's approach to gas security

Programme/year: International Security Studies / 2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/~~external-assessor~~): Jan Ludvik

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	69
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	89



Evaluation

Major criteria:

While I think the text is generally well-written, several smaller issues can be raised. First, while the main research question asks “Why have Czech Republic and Hungary adopted different gas security strategies in dealing with their gas import dependence?” more attention is paid to how different the two respective gas security strategies are. The dissertation probably contains more description than would have been necessary. This space could have been better used for deeper analysis and more elaborated interpretation. It is of course important to understand differences in the gas security strategies before one can explain why the strategies are different, but the distribution of space could have prioritized explaining the why question.

Second, the theoretical framework, even though well introduced in the theoretical section, is not fully utilized throughout the empirical parts. I am also unconvinced that the two theoretical approaches (securitization and rational choice) are as compatible as the student claims and that theories can be treated as ala carte menu. I must, however, acknowledge that the dissertation acknowledges this possible incompatibility of theoretical framework.

Third, I think that the limits of the dissertation research that are explained in the conclusion would have been more appropriate for the introduction.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned points I am convinced that the dissertation meets high standards and should be marked accordingly.



Minor criteria:

No objections; sources, style, and formal criteria are quite adequate.

Overall evaluation:

This is a relatively strong dissertation, neatly written, empirically rich and pleasant to read. The dissertation addresses a relevant topic with a proper and generally well-designed research strategy. The student was able to read a representative body of existing scholarship on energy security and he is able to draw on this scholarship in his thesis. Furthermore, the student managed to enrich his dissertation with expert interviews that help him shape his insight into the dynamics of policy making in Czech Republic and Hungary.

Suggested grade:

Excellent (1)

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan J.' followed by a long, wavy flourish.