



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Paul Angelini

Title: Terrorism: Difficulties in Countering U.S. Phenomenon of Self-radicalisation in the Digital Era

Programme/year: BS, 2016/2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Doc. Dr. Nik Hynek, PhD

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	30
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	57
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	7
	Style	<b>5</b>	4
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	4
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	72



## Evaluation

### Major criteria and evaluation:

This thesis analyses one of the most important issues of today's security, i.e. online self-radicalization. The piece geographically focuses on the U.S. where this process has been especially noteworthy when it comes to the phenomenon of Islamic Jihadism and religiously motivated terrorism. Paul Angelini chose an original, yet still very fresh and highly topical subject and has successfully attempted to analyse it. After he theoretically and conceptually reviewed existing literature on (self-)radicalization, he put forward his own model of online self-radicalization. He used social-psychological background to understand the path to self-radicalization. Part of this analysis contains the discussion of environmental characteristics by which online vs offline self-radicalization were compared and contrasted. While his interest was conceptual and empirical, Paul turned his attention to empirical part, in which this phenomenon was studied. His analysis of the security, business and legal aspects of the San Bernardino terrorism case stood out in terms of analytical depth. When it comes to shortcomings of the thesis, I would like to highlight three: 1. Lack of coherence of the piece as such – some chapters and their sections lack the logical sequencing and sometimes the reader is left wondering about the flow. 2. It is not easy to find out whether the primary focus of the work has been the analysis of online self-radicalization, or ways in which it could be countered and prevented. 3. And finally, while the work contains an outline of research design, it could have been more developed, especially in relation to methodology and data collection.

Suggested grade: Very Good – 2

Signature:

Nik Hynek 