



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Terver Orbunde

Title: **Adaptive Structuration Theory and The Role of Social Computing Sites in the Biafran Struggle**

Programme/year: Secintel 2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	6
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	15
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	20
Total		80	41
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	6
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	5
Total		20	14
TOTAL		100	55



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis intends to investigate the utilisation of the social media (Twitter) in the case of Biafran separatism. Apart from the general tendency of focusing on the virtual realm the case is also interesting since Nigeria belongs among the countries with the most widespread usage of Twitter.

Unfortunately, the thesis provides only a very limited contribution due to several factors.

First, it lacks a clear research design, including the argument that would ensure a cohesiveness and coherency of the thesis.

Second, some parts of the thesis are clearly redundant (CSC vocabulary), other essential parts are missing. Namely, a clear theoretical discussion about the role of social media in political mobilisation/radicalisation. For obvious reasons, this literature has recently been growing and there are many cases (e.g. Arab Spring) that have been discussed and investigated from this perspective.

Third, the utilisation of AST appears a bit problematic. The theory itself essentially precedes the existence of social media (it might not be a critical hurdle but it is good to reflect it). I originally thought some of the elements could be linked with the discussion of NodeXL's metrics/algorithms (especially the debate on mechanisms). It would have been challenging but potentially really interesting. However, the thesis only offers a sketchy description of one of the STS theories and does not link it properly with the methodology/method. Therefore, the gap between theory and methodology is quite substantial.

The topology provided by the software tool apparently offers some ground for interpretation but it remains distant from the theoretical points outlined earlier in the thesis.

Minor criteria:

The thesis seems to be a bit harshly written – it includes typos, repeating words, irregular referencing etc. The resource base could be improved by adding disciplinary literature on social media-radicalisation.



**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Charles University

Overall evaluation:

This could be potentially sound thesis focusing on interesting empirical issue. However, the thesis lacks a coherent theoretical framework and fails in connecting the theoretical and methodological parts.

Despite all shortcomings I would still recommend it for defence.

Suggested grade:

Good

Signature: dr. Vít Střítecký