



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Tabea Magdalena Grünewald

Title: *The Securitization of Immigration: An Assessment of the Extent of Securitization of Immigration in the German Political Discourse in the aftermath of the 2015 European Refugee Crisis*

Programme/year: Institute of Political Studies, FSV UK, 2018

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): PhDr. Ondřej Kaleta

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	70
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	90



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The author has clearly defined research questions as well as the main objective of the thesis – analysing official political discourse in Germany during the European refugee crisis in 2015/2016 as “the most-likely case of securitization”. She has demonstrated a high level of knowledge regarding the ongoing securitization debate in the “post-Copenhagen” period. The research is based on rich theoretical and conceptual framework reflecting key developments in the subfield of securitization studies. Particularly, there is well elaborated and straightforward application of Stitzel’s contextualized concept of securitization based on Vuori’s generic structure of speech acts. As for methodology, the thesis convincingly uses a critical discourse analysis focusing on the political discourse and its dynamics in the Bundestag debates. There is a clear line of arguments and enough space given to illustrate the securitization/humanitarian utterances and their interpretations.

To include also some less positive features, the thesis does not pay enough attention to policy making level and focuses almost exclusively on the discourse only (it should be kept in mind that securitization is not merely defined by “speaking security” but also by its material, legislative, etc. consequences/production. Omitting this significant dimension as well as some other aspects (e.g. there is no critical appraisal of agency – which is represented by a mix of heterogeneous actors from executive and legislative branch – and making often overlapping speech acts) belong to one of the weaknesses of the overall very well done research.

Minor criteria:

The thesis rests on a wide array of relevant sources, which are properly utilized and referred to throughout the text. The overall narrative is well structured and supported by useful charts and tables. Except from several spelling mistakes (which are really rare however) the whole text is precise and easy to read. All other minor formal requirements applicable for a master degree thesis have been fully met.



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Overall evaluation:

The author has submitted an insightful thesis that touches upon a very important and topical issue. Despite not fulfilling the whole potential of the research, it provided an excellent analysis based on firm conceptual foundations and well elaborated methodology.

Suggested grade:

A

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jindřich Hrabec".