



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bc. Miroslava Pěčková

Title: Securitization of the Veteran Effect of Foreign Fighters from ISIS in Europe

Programme/year: International Relations/2018

Author of Evaluation (~~supervisor~~/external assessor): Mgr. Zdeněk Ludvík

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	29
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	63
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	8
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	81



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

Research questions and definitions of objectives are formulated logically and comprehensibly.

The research framework is slightly blurred – the author puts it primarily into the classic securitization theory but at the same time she mentions the approaches of the French modern sociological school too. Thus, it is not clear from the theoretical part of the paper whether the securitization is to be pursued from a perspective of "Copenhagen" speech acts or Balzacqian sociological practices.

It can be also marginally mentioned that when explaining the Daesh approach to dispatching FFs back to their countries/instructing DFs (chap. 1.1), the author did not mention the al-Suri model of the internal destruction of Western societies which Daesh has adopted and partly has manoeuvred by its actions.

In the methodological part of the paper there is a certain tension that I would call a „flirtation with causality“. On the one hand, by presenting the literature that deals with the case studies (or their comparisons) as with a tool for postulating causal relations between variables (Karlas, Goodrick), the author demonstrates the concept of a case study in the Yinian positivistic perspective, but on the other hand, she claims that her research design will not deal with causality this way: *„The aim of the thesis is not to examine causal relations in the given case studies. On the other hand, this thesis focuses on comparing and finding the contrast between securitization discourses as well as security policies adopted as a response to them. Therefore, we are not going to focus on choosing independent and dependent variables“* (p. 20). But two pages later, she states that *„we may say the dependent variables are going to be the policies which are adopted within the cases chosen. However, as it was already explained, no independent variable is going to be chosen as this thesis does not aim to examine causal relations, but rather compare securitization narratives and policies“* (p. 22).

If the author wanted to avoid the conceptualization of variables and the tracing causal links between them, she should have rather opted either for a Stake's case study concept (Stake is not only an apologist for the single-case study, he has also elaborated a *Cross-Case Analysis* concept),<sup>1</sup> or for a

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<sup>1</sup> Stake, Robert E. (2006): *Multiple Case Study Analysis*. New York, London: The Guilford Press.



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Suganami's narrative case study which operates in the divide of explanation and understanding without seeking to elucidate relations between variables.

The author also mentions the Mill's comparison, but without specifying which of his many concrete methods she intends to use. In addition, the Mill's methods are optimally suited to causal case studies monitoring values of independent and dependent variables. Therefore, when having ignored causality and variables, it would have suited better a comparisons in the Stakeian spirit where the relation between the variables and their consistent/distinct values are avoided: „*The main activity of cross-case analysis is reading the case reports and applying their Findings of situated experience to the research questions*” (Stake 2006: 47).

So, the author has bogged down in the middle of both approaches to the case study (neither fish nor fowl). However, I must underline that given the author's final design of the research (operationalization, criteria/indicators, comparative overview table), the research framework is in the upshot much more suited to the format of an Yinian case study which explicitly deals with variables and causality (let the author give her opinion on it before examination board).

By contrast, the strength of the argument line is convincing, the author skillfully derives from the theoretical literature principal items she consistently follows in the case studies.

As far as the analytical layer of the paper is concerned, a certain weakness is the selection of case studies and its apologetics. For the final comparison there are the cases of France and the UK only since the case of the UN is defined as „*only complementary*” (s. 21), and the case of the EU „*is going to be evaluated, even though a little less attention is going to be given to it*” (ibid.). So, the question is: Would it had not been more appropriate at the end to include case studies of other European countries (Germany, Russia, Belgium), or even non-European countries (certain states of Maghreb and Mashrek) with similar number of FFs? (Let the author give her opinion on it before examination board.)

At the same time, however, it is important to say that the author's analytical line is consistent: In the initial part of the paper she defines her procedure and she thoroughgoingly keeps to it in the research part of the paper.



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Minor criteria:

Insufficient/inappropriate methodological literature; on the contrary satisfactory source base.

Paper meets the formal requirements and style of a diploma thesis.

Overall evaluation:

I have the pleasure to say that this paper, in spite of the above-mentioned criticisms, has made me happy by its consistency in the sense of belonging between the topicality of the topic and its academic grasping and processing. I appreciate diversified data sources – both governmental and intergovernmental documents and documents of international organizations, as well as prestigious and linguistically diverse European newspapers. Well, despite all the partial imperfections the paper brings a refreshing text and corroborates the author's proficiency. I recommend the paper for defense.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature:

Zd. Ludvík, m.p.