Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Alexandra Pommer**

Title: Alternative Realities on Social Media: Twitter and the German Right-Wing

Programme/year: MISS 2018

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	35
Total		*80*	75
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		*20*	20
TOTAL		*100*	95

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis engages in a timely and topical issue of right-wing propaganda on social networks. The author deals with the issue with an outstanding level of research competence and insight into the German right-wing scene.

Author's research competence is demonstrated throughout the entire thesis. The text is built up on a relevant and stimulating literature review and conceptualisation. The argument is founded on two concepts – filter bubble and contrast society – both concepts are utilised persuasively and with certainty. The description of the German right-wing actors and ideology shows the author's insight into the topic as well as her ability to present information with clarity.

The research question "How is the German right-wing as a contrast society portrayed on Twitter networks?" is effectively addressed in the analysis. The use of social network analysis could be another advantage of the thesis. Nonetheless, I am not convinced about its utility for this analysis. First, the question expects, in my view, primarily a qualitative content/discourse analysis of the Twitter content. Second, the issue of modularity is supposed to be related to the issue of filter bubble. However, I do not see how a measurement of modularity in analyses of individual right-wing hashtags may substantiate the otherwise convincing argument about right-wing contrast society developing in a filter bubble. Such an argument would require an inclusion of non-right-wing nodes into the networks. The conclusions of Chapter 4 (page 72) thus seem to me erroneous.

Minor criteria:

The thesis is presented with an outstanding confidence and competence.

Overall evaluation:

Alexandra Pommer's thesis is an excellent work. Although I am not convinced about the utility of the social-network analysis in this research design, the thesis as a whole is evidence of a great effort, and research and presentation competence.

Suggested grade: A

Signature: