Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: ASHLEY A. FORE

Title: The Visuality of Immigration: Images from British online news sources and their potential to construct immigration as a security issue in the lead up to the EU Referendum

Programme/year: SECINTEL, 2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Dagmar Rychnovská

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	38
Total		*80*	74
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		*20*	20
TOTAL		*100*	94

Evaluation

This is a strong and interesting thesis contributing to the trend of exploring the role of images in shaping the political framing of certain issues, concretely migration. The dissertation does a good job in situating this research into prior literature and shows advanced understanding of the debate about images and IR. This is much appreciated, as this debate is not easy to follow and the very topic of the visual turn in IR/ security studies is typically only marginal in official curricula. The author thus obviously invested a lot of effort into learning independently about this theoretical trend in the field and how to study images in securitization.

The thesis is well written, has a clear and smart structure and is easy to follow. The research design is sound and makes sense in the context of this type of study. The detailed description of the methodology and which aspects of images are explored and how is much helpful for the reader.

The empirical research is extensive, original and very well managed. The paper goes into great detail of how each image under scrutiny is composed and what features it has. This part is really strong and impressive.

What remains less clear is why only content analysis was chosen and why the analysis did not account for more context. This would probably make it possible to understand the role of images in securitization – i.e. in a political process defined by interaction between specific actors, platforms, and discourses – even better. The conclusion could have been also a bit sounder, highlighting the added value of the thesis in the research on images in IR and outlining further avenues for similar explorations.

In sum, though, the dissertation works very well and is a great piece of interesting and well conducted research.

Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Studies /
Smetanovo nabrezi 6, 110 01 Prague 1, Czech Republic, info@fsv.cuni.cz, tel: +420 222 112 111

www.fsv.cuni.cz

Suggested grade: excellent (lower)

Signature: