



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Zuzana Roudnická

Title: Securitization of HIV/AIDS in South Africa, 2000-2018

Programme/year: Security Studies, 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): PhDr. Kateřina Werkman, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	22
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	26
<i>Total</i>		80	56
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	7
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	17
TOTAL		100	72



Evaluation

Major criteria:

There are two research questions formulated in the introduction of the thesis (*How can the reaction to the HIV/AIDS epidemic be explained using the Copenhagen School's theory of securitization?* and *Were the attempts to securitize HIV/AIDS by the internationally relevant actors successful in the Republic of South Africa?*) While the issue is not entirely new and has been reasonably covered in academic literature, it remains relevant and valid. Alongside the question, the author states that "the aim of the research is to assess the applicability of the Copenhagen School's securitization framework on the case of HIV/AIDS in South Africa" – which is not necessarily the same as what the questions aim at. While the theory of securitisation is thoroughly discussed, there are serious shortcomings regarding the research framework, operationalization and data analysis. The author mentions several key words to be searched for in order to establish that a particular actor has made a securitisation move (p.4), these are not systematically searched for in a clearly defined (chronologically and spatially) corpus of documents. Rather, the interpretive part introduces a couple of documents from a number of actors, the analysis of which is brief and relatively superficial. A discourse analysis (which the thesis "incorporates elements of" (p.4), would require a much more thorough and systematic approach. The same goes for the discussion of SA's government reaction to the securitization moves of the international actors. Overall, long descriptive sections prevail over the analytical dimension and the link between theory and empirics is at best patchy.

Minor criteria:

There is a sufficient base of both primary and secondary sources. I missed a brief discussion/literature review of the broader issue of securitizing infectious disease. The thesis is written in very good English and meets all the formal requirements.

Overall evaluation:

The presented thesis successfully meets all the criteria for an MA thesis and I recommend it for defence.

Suggested grade:

2/C

Signature: