Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Alexander Downs

Title: ANT-Security Interface and the Current Information Crisis

Programme/year: **MISS** 2020

Author of Evaluation (~~supervisor~~/external assessor): Petr Spelda, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	33
Total		*80*	71
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		*20*	20
TOTAL		*100*	91

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Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis intends to create a conceptual link between Security Studies and a 'nearby' discipline of STS in the context of information crisis. Such a research effort is to be appreciated, mostly because Security Studies, despite the volume of critical scholarship, seems to be rather neglectful of STS. The bridge between the disciplines is built using ANT, which is handled persuasively, founding the bridge on a relevant selection of the STS literature. From the empirical point of view, the focus lies in the assemblage of the right-wing populist movements. However, here I converge on my main critical point – the research stays mostly conceptual as the empirical analysis remains rather brief and thus inevitably shallow. Although from the STS standpoint, this is not a problem from the Security Studies point of view more empirical work should have been done. Relatedly, the concluding discussion on technological changes could have been deeper, based on more carefully selected literature. Also, ANT is not applied in a principled manner.

Minor criteria:

The thesis satisfies all the formal requirements and reads well.

Overall evaluation:

All in all, this is a very interesting piece of research, bringing together Security Studies and STS. The ANT's application could have been more systematic, and the empirical analysis better developed.

Suggested grade: A

Signature

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