



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Dóra Béres

Title: The main causes of migration in the Middle East: Is migration predominantly caused by armed conflicts?

Programme/year: ISS

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Emil Aslan

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	2
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	5
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	3
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	10
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	7
	Style	<b>5</b>	3
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	3
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	23



## Evaluation

Major criteria: This thesis sets a research question that is both somewhat banal, extremely difficult (even impossible) to address empirically, and unfocused. The question whether the recent wave of immigration from the Middle East has been caused by armed conflicts might be related positively (hence its banality) if one is to approach the topic in general terms; indeed, it doesn't take a M.A. thesis to confirm that the recent waves of immigration to the West and elsewhere from Syria has been caused by the civil war. There is nothing surprising about this conclusion: armed conflicts do cause emigration. Yet if the question is to be answered in a more comprehensive (and non-banal) way, then the challenge of measurement necessarily arises. How is the author going to gauge the impact on migration of various factors, outside of the scope of armed conflicts, then a variety of variables may come into play. A comprehensive measurement is needed to gauge the relative effect of various factors – in itself an extremely ambitious initiative. With such limitations, the thesis ends up covering – in a necessarily superfluous way – banalities, describing the well-known, and hence failing to cast valuable light into the author's core question. This is an unavoidable result of the erroneous research design, lack of theorizing, and lack of a research problem.

Minor criteria:

The work would have benefited from proper proofreading.

Overall evaluation:

It's unfortunate that the thesis can't be defended in its current form. With an erroneous – even lacking – research design, the thesis draws on no theoretical literature, isn't based on a relevant research problem, and is driven by a series of rather isolated series of empirical descriptions that fail to result in a meaningful analysis.

Suggested grade: F

Signature: Emil Aslan



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