

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2487073 DCU 19108346 Charles 51456294
Dissertation Title	Machine learning applications in the United States criminal justice system: A critical content analysis of the COMPAS recidivism risk assessment

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade Select from drop down list	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade Select from drop down list	Late Submission Penalty no penalty
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
Word Count: 21348 Suggested Penalty: no penalty		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).
Before Penalty: A2 [21] **After Penalty:** A2 [21]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Excellent
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Excellent
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Excellent
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes

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|---|--------------|
| • Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology) | Not required |
| • Appropriate word count | Yes |

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The dissertation investigates the ethically flawed applications of machine learning models to judicial decision making. I feel compelled to begin with an unreserved praise for the level of piercing understanding and the overall shape demonstrated by the submitted work. Only rarely one reads a student work reaching both the accuracy and form at such an exceptional level. Particularly, the technical exposition is precise, free of any factual lapses, and accompanied by superbly executed application of critical race theory to the analyzed case. Relying on a rich body relevant literature, the resulting synthesis between machine learning and critical race theory successfully shows the intrinsic dangers of non-transparent uses of technology for determining human fates. In this regard, it is also appreciated that the root cause of the malpractice, the unfair questionnaires, is analyzed in detail and its role thus revealed in full. As such, the investigation is complete, anchored by an exceptionally fitting theoretical framework, and provides a rich set of findings.

Reviewer 2

This is a truly excellent piece of work. From the outset, it is making a valuable contribution to the literature, which is also tethered to some of the most important issues of the contemporary sociological and political zeitgeist. In academia, we are often compelled to make our work 'policy-relevant' and 'impactful'. To this extent, I think that the dissertation produced would certainly hit the standards expected of some established academics. The dissertation is deeply researched and very carefully constructed and the intertwinement of Critical Race Theory and Machine Learning is not an easy brief--it is, however, pulled off very skillfully. The appendices are a welcome bookmark to the level of detail replete across the dissertation and I think the student can be extremely proud of what they have produced. With the right outlet and minimal editing, a work like this could be published and, in turn, valued by the relevant academic communities.