



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Leah Kuttu

Title: The Racial Reality In The United States: The Nexus Between Critical Race Theory And International Studies

Programme/year: MISS 2020/2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Filip Vostal

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	38
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	76
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	96



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The research question and objectives are well articulated. *Very* robust conceptual and theoretical framework are indeed provided. The thesis' methodology combines theoretical research (i.e., exploration of a system of belief/assumptions) with the use of secondary data and historical evidence. The objectives, framework, and method nicely fall into place in analytical/argumentative sections. *One of the main strengths of Leah's thesis is that it provides a thesis* (not all diploma theses do).

### Minor criteria:

The list of sources is admirable even if I miss in them scholars like Harvey Molotch (*Against Security*, 2012). Some formal missteps can be identified, but they are extremely minor and neglectable (in the face of the provided argument).

### Overall evaluation:

This is a truly fascinating trans-disciplinary thesis. It systematically and sharply argues that the notion of security, and mainly its somewhat limited conceptualizations in mainstream political sciences, need a reconsideration at the current socio-historical juncture. Such analytical and intellectual reconsideration that runs through the entire text – and this is *the* thesis' main claim – accounts for much more human-centred (rather than merely state-centred) conception of (international) security. Human security, the critical notion in the social sciences and beyond, is still strangely marginal(ized). Whilst reading this excellent thesis, I couldn't resist thinking that, by adding Leah's new perspective, even the very issue of "securitization" may be salvaged from its inflationary (not necessarily incorrect) use in IR. Especially when synthesized with Critical Race Theory (CRT) – the main pillar of thesis' analytical structure. The argument is well laid-out, fluent & reader-friendly when it comes to presentation). The analytical strategy – and the very framing of the argument in terms of the nicely shaped "history of the present" (Foucault) of police brutality against black people and related racial profiling in the US – is played out in *convincing* manner. Convincingness and timing are very important features of this thesis in any case. These two features undoubtedly show that Leah is an unyielding and poised "thinker/intellectual-in-making" and in my eyes her work not only delivers but deserves a thorough credit. As Leah rightfully, even if implicitly, claims the universal human rights – *and the right for secure life/existence regardless of skin colour* – are non-negotiable, inalienable, and vested.

### Suggested grade: A

Signature: