

IMESS dissertation						
Name:	Alina Khasabova					
Dissertation title:	Discursive energy security: Narratives and public relations in natural gas pipelines. Nabucco versus South Stream Case study					
Scale: 5 - excellent, 4 - good, 3 - satisfactory, 2 - poor, 1 – very poor						
	5	4	3	2	1	
ARGUMENT:						
Clearly defined research question	5					No clearly defined research question
Answers research question	5					Does not answer research question
Well structured		4				Badly structured
Shows theoretical awareness	5					Shows no theoretical awareness
Conceptual clarity	5					Conceptual confusion
Empirically appropriate & robust		4				Full of empirical errors
Logical and coherent	5					Illogical and incoherent
Analytical	5					Descriptive
Critical	5					Uncritical
Shows independent thought	5					Does not show independent thought
SOURCES & USAGE:						
Evidence of reading/research	5					No evidence of reading/research
Effective use of sources/data	5					Ineffective use of sources/data
WRITING STYLE:						
Clear	5					Obscure
Good punctuation	5					Poor punctuation
Grammatically correct	5					Grammatically incorrect
PRESENTATION:						
Appropriate length	5					Too long/short
Good referencing	5					Poor/inconsistent referencing
Good spelling	5					Poor spelling
Good bibliography						Poor bibliography

Comments: Alina Khasabova's MA thesis is an outcome of a quality research; research that is original and that touches on a topic that has been widely discussed, yet rarely investigated in a deep and concise manner provided by the author. It rests on solid empirical knowledge and, importantly, draws on the use of both a clear methodological apparatus and a rich theoretical background that all result in a formidable study. Carried out with attention to the smallest detail, Khasabova's MA thesis provides a clever and analytically mature conceptualisation of how particular, to quote the author, "energy projects – initially reserved for specialists in geology and engineering – have been able to enter the everyday discourse of the general public" (p. 3), that is, how they are securitized; the exploring coil into this specific field is then employed through the use of CDA. In fact, although I do have minor disagreements with Alina Khasabova in some parts of her study (for instance, I have some doubts regarding the mission of the chapter Comparison to reality, p. 61 onward, as well as with the very title thereof – is it possible to measure the level of ontological "reality" as opposed to the "reality" scrutinized through the use of CDA? And if yes, can we speak of two ontological realities whose differing realism depends on the use of particular epistemological prism? A similar argument of mine applies to the author's statement on page 72: "Discourses – and not the reality – constrains and orients energy policy". Isn't a discourse of a reality a reality in itself? And if it isn't a reality, then what is it, e.g., how would the author describe the dichotomy "real reality" - "discursive reality"?) that deserve to be polished, I consider the MA thesis a welcome and quality contribution to the rather underresearched field that deserves applause; hence I suggest that Alina Khasabova considers at least part(s) of her study for separate publication.

Specific Questions for oral defence:

a) See above (highlighted)

b) What is the author's opinion about the geopolitical impact on the South Caucasus region of making operational the Nabucco – or the South Stream – pipeline?

Deducted for late submission:	Deducted for faulty referencing:	Mark*:
Charles marker: A	Signed: Dr. Emil Souleimanov	Date: June 9 th , 2011

***Mark: A = 70+; B = 65-69; C = 60-64; D = 55-59; E = 50-54; F = fail, less than 50, see Scheme of award –please, fill in this way: Charles/IMESS (e.g. Výborně/A)**