

IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator (cc Allan Sikk a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk and Alexa Stewart alexa.stewart@ucl.ac.uk)

Please note that IMESS students are not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Andrei Macsut
Dissertation title:	<i>Civic engagement in Romania , testing the applicability of mainstream theories on the winter protests of 2012</i>

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor
Knowledge <i>Knowledge of problems involved, e.g. historical and social context, specialist literature on the topic. Evidence of capacity to gather information through a wide and appropriate range of reading, and to digest and process knowledge.</i>	X		
Analysis & Interpretation <i>Demonstrates a clear grasp of concepts. Application of appropriate methodology and understanding; willingness to apply an independent approach or interpretation recognition of alternative interpretations; Use of precise terminology and avoidance of ambiguity; avoidance of excessive generalisations or gross oversimplifications.</i>		X	
Structure & Argument <i>Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of an arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>			X
Presentation & Documentation <i>Accurate and consistently presented footnotes and bibliographic references; accuracy of grammar and spelling; correct and clear presentation of charts/graphs/tables or other data. Appropriate and correct referencing throughout. Correct and contextually correct handling of quotations.</i>		X	

ECTS Mark:		Charles Mark:	B	Marker:	Nicolas Maslowski, Ph.D. Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+): Note: marks of over 80 are given rarely and only for truly exceptional pieces of work.

Distinctively sophisticated and focused analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

A = výborně = 1

B/C (UCL mark 60-69):

A high level of analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research. 65 or over equates to a B grade.

B/C = velmi dobře = 2

D/E (UCL mark 50-59):

Demonstration of a critical use of sources and ability to engage in systematic inquiry. An ability to engage in sustained research work, demonstrating methodological awareness. 55 or over equates to a D grade.

D/E = dobře = 3

F (UCL mark less than 50):

Demonstrates failure to use sources and an inadequate ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Inadequate evidence of ability to engage in sustained research work and poor understanding of appropriate research techniques.

F = neprospěl = 4

Constructive comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (at least 300 words):

Andrei Macsut wrote a master thesis on "*Civic engagement in Romania , testing the applicability of mainstream theories on the winter protests of 2012*". The diploma work counts 72 pages, 121 footnotes, 9 pages of bibliography and listed selected sources. By its extent, the footnotes, the quoted literature, this work corresponds to the formal criteria expected in such a thesis.

His Master Thesis includes an introduction, seven parts,(methodology and sources, defining and clarifying the concepts, theory and literature, case selection, history, context and analysis) and a conclusion. Those parts logically construct a whole argumentation, constituting the announced thesis topic. Therefore, I consider that the author achieved the aim of the thesis. Never-the-less, the logical structure could be better conceived: the division between "methodology and sources", "defining and clarifying the concepts", and "theory and literatures" seems to be artificial, and unjustified. Concepts, methodology and theory are one topic. Idem for "history", "context" and "analysis" Each description is a kind of analysis. This work should probably be constructed around two parts, on theoretical, and one discussing the theory with this new type of mobilizations.

The author worked with a good quality literature. He regularly use citations or references, in a sufficient but not very important extent. The methods used are adequate. The critics of some theories by their confrontation with some observation is a classical method. Another question is that the author is considering the "frame analysis" and resource mobilization as nearly the only real representatives of the mainstream theories, that is exaggerated.

The Depth of analysis with regard to the topic is satisfactory. The author has an individual approach to writing that brings me to believe that he should take into consideration making a Ph.D. The formal arrangement of the thesis is very good, the language and stylistic arrangement correct.

I propose for the defense the following questions:

- How would you conceive the relation actor/agency in those new type of civic activism
- How can we consider the concept of strategies in such type of mobilization?
- Could this type of mobilization have a major influence of everyday democracy?

To sum up, this is an excellent diploma work, maybe a little bit too ambitious. I recommend this thesis for defense and suggest for classification B.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (at least 3 questions):

- How would you conceive the relation actor/agency in those new type of civic activism
- How can we consider the concept of strategies in such type of mobilization?
- Could this type of mobilization have a major influence of everyday democracy?