

SECINTEL Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2218775	Charles
Dissertation Title	The Right Wing and Instagram: A Visual Content Analysis of Female Depiction	

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Glasgow Marker <i>Office Use</i>	Charles Marker <i>Office Use</i>	Grade Conversion UoG-CU CU-UoG	Charles Additional Info <i>Please advise ranking</i>
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JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark C1 [14] 3 [Satisfactory]

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>	Very Good
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Good
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>	Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Good
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Very Good
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	No
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

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ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Glasgow Marker

This is an interesting account that aims to interrogate the visual imagery distributed via hashtags on Instagram around the theme of the gendering in and of right wing perspectives and the role and views of women as part of emergent right wing online discourses. It reveals the growing mix between the everyday and extreme discourses through visual images and social media more broadly.

It begins from the useful position that the internet is always already visual and rightly identifies a range of theoretical and methodological challenges in the social sciences in the treatment of visual images. Some of the limitations in the selection of and the generalisation from hashtags in social media are identified, but ultimately there is a disconnect between some of the claims and discussion here. For example, to write of the motivation for the use of selfies is challenging on the basis of analysis of hashtags and images alone.

More generally, some kind of ethnographic component, including even interviews with actual users of Instagram, would have helped strengthen the discussion, especially around the important notion identified here of a shift from 'passive' to more 'active' modes of political engagement via social media. Similarly, the right's deployment of nostalgic and simplistic templates as a means to provide ideological contrast with today, is an issue that could have been usefully further explored.

On occasion there is too much reliance on a single source within a given section (Pauwels ch1, Back ch2, Durham ch 4). A broader range of voices/sources within these sections would have enhanced the argument being made, for instance the work of Farida Vis and Gillian Rose.

Overall, this is an engaging dissertation on a timely topic which could have been developed further with more attention to the visual in itself, including, for example, through incorporating key images in to the text of the work.

Charles Marker

The thesis investigates an interesting topic of right wing Instagram visuals depicting women. The topic originally combines a growing perspective of visual analysis with gender aspects in a specific radical environment. It is also important to note that right wing radicals belong among the first revisionist movement exploiting the potential of the Internet since the mid-1990s.

The theoretical component starts quite widely referring to the technology – art reproduction debate classically introduced by Benjamin. This debate can be related to the topic but rather focuses on art and propaganda. That said, there is the entire STS field that could provide general background for this research (even if it does not appear necessary).

Despite the relative novelty there are some resources that could be added to the literature review (most notably Zelin or Winter). Additionally, there is Hansen's pioneering work/project on images in IR.

From the methodological perspective, the thesis reveals a very careful data mining/selection process. I especially appreciate the quality control process that Elise applied when finalising the sample.

Nevertheless, my major critical comment is related to the actual analysis. First, it would be valuable to read a bit more about the visual content analysis that is promised as the principal methodology. Also, as it is often the case with discursive methodologies, the debate on visual content analysis would provide a relevant theoretical background and selection and legitimisation of the categories would work as conceptualisation/operationalisation. The point here is that the thesis conventionally categorizes the visuals (visual discourses) rather than performs real visual

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content analysis based on themes (some of the applied categories are potent – those looking at traditions or anti-feminist motives) that would offer discourse-based categorisation working as a foundation for interpretation.

This, however, does not mean that the results of the analysis are not relevant nor interesting. The findings nicely reveal some gender-oriented observations that, on the other hand, remind reader that the gender aspect could have been stressed a bit more in the theoretical framework.

Minor criteria:

The thesis reads very well, the resource base is rather satisfactory (quite heavy reliance on single sources)

Please note that this grade is recorded as the provisional final grade for the University of Glasgow degree. All grades remain provisional until confirmed at the joint examination board.

The Czech State Exam/Oral Defense may make a difference to the final grade for the Charles University degree.

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Notes for Markers: When grading the SECINTEL Dissertation markers are asked to reflect upon the aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation. Each dissertation should also adopt a clear security focus reflecting the relevant programme pathway

Aims: The course aims to provide students with independent research opportunities. It will include engagement with research methods training leading up to a period of independent research and the production of a substantial dissertation that builds upon themes and issues covered within the MSc International Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and demonstrate their capacity for original thought and independent research. The dissertation element aims to enable students to identify and research particular issues or problems, linked to security, intelligence and strategy, at a deeper level than is possible within assessed essays and to develop a critical analysis of the existing body of academic work relating to their topic of choice. Students taking this course will be prepared for further research, study or professional careers through the development of their skills in data collection and analysis, use of original and secondary sources and the conducting and writing up of a detailed research project.

Intended Learning outcomes: By the end of the dissertation, students will be able to:

- > Devise a realistic programme of research on a topic reflecting the main themes of the programme;
- > Collect, select and critically analyse relevant background literature and arguments of a range of scholars;
- > Understand and select the appropriate methodology for dealing with information sources and data;
- > Apply these methods to gather and interrogate data in an open-minded, rigorous and undogmatic manner;
- > Be able to critically evaluate competing theories and apply relevant theoretical frameworks to guide the study
- > Organise the data collected and analyse the findings in a competent manner that allows for a fluid and logical argument to be presented;
- > Be reflexive and self-critical about findings and the limitations of analysis;
- > Work independently, organising and maintaining own programme of study to meet academic deadlines so as to produce work containing a substantial element of originality.

Word Count:

Dissertations should be 20,000 words in length for students undertaking work-placement as part of the independent study portfolio and 22,000 words in length for standard dissertation students. Word counts exclude the title page, abstract, contents, bibliography and appendices). All dissertations must display an accurate word-count including the citations, footnotes/endnotes and chapter/section titles.

Language:

The dissertation **must** be written in British English. A Czech Language cover page / abstract may be included

Late Submission Penalty:

Dissertations that do not have an extension or are submitted after an extension deadline are subject to a penalty of 2 secondary bands per day (this includes weekends and holidays) on the Glasgow grading Scale.

Plagiarism:

Dissertations which suffer from excessive (e.g. serious and/or deliberate) plagiarism will be subject to a grade of 0/Fail and be referred to the appropriate authorities at both universities. Dissertations that contain some elements of plagiarism, but which are deemed not to be excessive (e.g. minor instances that are not considered deliberate) based on consultation of both internal markers, should be graded accordingly and will be subject to scrutiny from the external examiner and could still result in a mark of 0 as well as referral to appropriate authorities for disciplinary action.

Consultation prior to final grading:

First marking by both institutions should be completed blind with no prior consultation. Once both markers have graded the dissertation and provided written comments, they should consult on the grading and come to a joint final grade, taking into consideration any late submission or excessive word count penalty. It is the responsibility of the Glasgow marker to oversee this. Where markers cannot come to a joint agreement then the dissertation should be referred to the Programme Convenors at Glasgow and Charles (Dr. Eamonn Butler & Dr Vít Střítecký). The external examiner will be used to moderate any dissertation in this position and the comments referred back to the internal markers for confirmation.