



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Davide Persoglia

Title: Between Defence and Offence: An Analysis of the US “Cyber Strategic Culture”

Programme/year: MISS 2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	36
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	72
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	92



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

This is a solid thesis analysing the crucial cyber security documents forming the US cyber strategic culture. Although there has been quite a lot written on the development of US cyber policy and strategy the thesis takes a novel approach which does not necessarily lie in the constructivist rounding as the author suggests but rather in placing the concept of ACD into the centre of the analysis. The author convincingly illustrates the shift from the originally defensive discourse dominating the cyber strategic documents to a more offensive one in a context of the strategic utilisation of the ACD. The thesis reveals several major strengths. Namely, it is extremely virtuously elaborated covering huge wealth of theoretical and empirical material. It has also a strong analytical character and provides counter-intuitive conclusions. My only critical notes would be related to the overall coherency of the theoretical framework. Although the research design is clear and functioning some of the theoretical sections could be better connected/tied together making the design more straightforward. Overall, it is a thorough piece of work that deserves a high evaluation.

### Minor criteria:

OK

### Overall evaluation:

Overall excellent and original thesis.

Suggested grade: A2

Signature: