

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2336370 DCU 17116279 Charles 21561082
Dissertation Title	CONSTRUCTING COUPS D'ETAT Discourse legitimisation in Thailand and Turkey

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade <i>For internal use only</i>	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade <i>For internal use only</i>	Late Submission Penalty <i>no penalty</i>
Word Count Penalty (1 UofG grade point per 500 words below/above the min/max word limit +/- 10%)		
Word Count: 22,983 Suggested Penalty: no penalty		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).

Before Penalty: A4 [19] **After Penalty:** A4 [19]

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>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Excellent
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>	Very Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Very Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Not required

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This is a fascinating dissertation which seeks to consider the phenomenon of military coups in a new light. As such, it turns to constructivist and behavioural theories to consider how military actors seek to legitimise their power and role within the polity, with a particular focus on the 2014 coup in Thailand and the 2016 coup in Turkey. The dissertation is logically and coherently structured providing a theoretical framework for the study before embarking on an empirical engagement with the cases of Turkey and Thailand respectively.

The dissertation is well-researched and well-written and makes the compelling case for moving beyond centuries old realist frameworks. Its key strengths include its meticulous structure and its clear and systematic explanatory work. The decision to engage with speech act theory was impressive and well-executed. Similarly, the author was astute and reflexive about the shortcomings and limitations of the research.

Despite its many strengths, there was some scope to enhance the theoretical depth of this already excellent argument. For instance, there was room for a more nuanced interrogation of the nature of power and the multiple ways in which states have been theorised and conceived (e.g. Durkheim, Marx, Tilly, Wendt). Terminology such as 'realism', 'constructivism', 'materialism', 'behaviouralism' are sometimes deployed without closely examining what these traditions entail or if they are in fact coherent. Paying due attention to the International Relations literature, there was a missed opportunity to consider the work of key scholars on revolution and coups such as Ayse Zarakol and George Lawson. Further, despite a reference to visual politics, there was little engagement with the flourishing field of visual politics (via scholars like Roland Bleiker, for instance). There was also some scope to further expand discussion on the role of speech in politics beyond Aristotle and via 20th Century thinkers like Arendt, for example. Finally, although the work on emotions and morality was very interesting, this analysis could have been enhanced by interrogating how the evocation of 'positive' emotions like 'love' played out in the context of the coup in Thailand vs the evocation of the 'negative' emotion of shame in Turkey.

Despite these very minor suggestions, this is a judicious and impressive piece of research. It is a testament to the author's outstanding organisational and analytical skills and their capacity to think clearly and creatively. Overall this is an excellent piece of research and writing and I commend the author for their outstanding work.

Reviewer 2

This was a brilliantly written dissertation with virtually no errors in spelling and grammar. I have no concerns over plagiarism nor is there a requirement for ethics approval as per the methodology. Word count is fine: route A.

This is a novel and timely dissertation. The candidate undertakes an interesting Constructivist slant to this study, different to some existing approaches.

Page 2 records a good overview of the intended contribution of this dissertation and how it differs from existing literature. However, it would have been more helpful and more in tune with an MA

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thesis more generally to review the literature as a chapter-further identifying the gap(s) that the candidate would then address (e.g. the middle paragraph in page 5 looks like part of a literature review). The candidate regularly refers to their review of the literature but a chapter doing just that would have helped the reader determine even more, the undoubted contribution made by this dissertation.

Having said this, the candidate still comprehensively engages with existing studies related to this topic when they discuss their theoretical chapter. They demonstrate a good mastery of existing works in this respect, engaging with these studies in an insightful and analytical way.

The method section and the identification of the limitations of this study were very well articulated and demonstrated the candidate's rigour in carrying out this exciting research. The two case study chapters were brilliantly executed with the candidate engaging a strong display of critical analysis, which was very pleasing and appropriate for a dissertation at this level.

The dissertation conclusion, namely page 93 onwards, laid out the utility of this work very well and it is true that this work has contributed to our existing knowledge on military coups. Here and in the preceding chapters, the candidate demonstrates their competence in convincingly applying the general discourse legitimisation theoretical framework to the case studies.

The candidate performs excellently as per the intended learning outcomes and the suggested future research is worthy of further exploration and I would encourage the candidate to consider undertaking this themselves!

Overall, my impression of this thesis is that it hits point 19, namely A4.