



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Zhayra Geraldine Garcia Escalona

Title: "Make it last forever, friendship never ends?": impact and implications of China's foreign policy on China-LAC relations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Programme/year: MISS 2022

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	32
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	65
<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>	85



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

As the power competition between China and the USA is one of the key issues of the current international security relations, the question of Chinese influence in the Latin America is of interest also from the security studies perspective. Moreover, this thesis deals with the most timely issues – it presents an analysis of covid diplomacy and its extension until (near)present days.

The thesis is built up with confidence and competence. The literature review covers the Chinese foreign policy and especially focuses on the relationships towards Latin America.

The theoretical framework does not provide a causal model or a conceptual framework for analysis. Instead, it presents a background for the hypotheses and the subsequent analysis of case studies.

The analysis reveals author's original contribution. By utilizing longitudinal content analysis, it traces media discourse in Argentina and Chile through the pandemic times.

There is not much to criticize; nonetheless, the author should try to clarify and justify some of her methodological and analytical choices:

- 1) Both country-cases present states with traditionally good relations with China. Would not a greater variability provide more contrasting results of health diplomacy effects
- 2) The cases differ in democratic backsliding (pandemic backsliding index). The thesis does attempt to explain this concept. Could you explain why 'pandemic democratic backsliding' should make a difference in media discourse about China

### Minor criteria: ok

### Assessment of plagiarism:

"Based on the anti-plagiarism software checks, it is formally confirmed that the submitted thesis is original and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, does not, in an ethically unacceptable manner, draw from the works of other authors."

### Overall evaluation:

As a whole, the thesis demonstrates author's concentrated and competent analytical effort on an interesting and relevant topic.

### Suggested grade: B

### Signature: