



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Kylie McCardel

Title: The Impact of Edward Snowden on Modern and Ontological Security in the United States and Europe

Programme/year: International Security Studies / 2022

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/second reader): Jan Ludvík, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	0
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	20
<i>Total</i>		80	25
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	0
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	10
TOTAL		100	35



Evaluation

Major criteria:

- See the overall evaluation

Minor criteria:

- See the overall evaluation

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:

This is really a difficult thesis to grade. Overall, it is an interesting text. It is well-written and informative. It is a good reportage accompanied by subtle but clear policy advocacy. However, it is not a master's thesis. It is a different genre.

The thesis needs a clear research question/definition of objectives. To be clear, this thesis specifies the number of questions/objectives in the introduction. However, there are simply too many of them (what was the impact of Snowden's whistleblowing on American society, what was Snowden's rationale, what changed in the U.S. security legislation, what did Snowden's actions mean for the ontological security of individuals in the United States and in other countries across the world, why is transparency important, what was the impact of other whistleblowers). With such a broad objective, the thesis delivers an interesting story about Snowden and whistleblowing, but not a systematic analysis of a specific research problem.

The second problem, certainly not unrelated to the first one, is that the thesis lacks any theoretical/conceptual framework. There is no methodology/research strategy. Neither is there any analysis of the existing literature. In fact, the list of references does not contain a single scholarly article or a book. This is a pity. Just typing Snowden to Google



**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Charles University

Scholar would have led to several interesting scholarly articles, which could have served as a source of inspiration for this thesis.

Overall, I do not think I can recommend this thesis for the defense. I, however, believe that Kylie's knowledge of and passion for the topic will help her transform what is written into an excellent thesis. One with a thorough analysis of existing literature, a clear research objective that will build on the existing literature and contribute to the cumulative knowledge about the fascinating topic of surveillance and privacy, a thoughtful theoretical framework, and a clear research strategy.

Suggested grade: F

Signature: