

## Annex 1 – Template Dissertation Report EPS



### Joint Dissertation Review

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|----------------------|---|
| Name of the student: | Maryse Boonstra   |
| Title of the thesis: | How can crises generate a paradigm shift in political discourse on abortion?<br>A cross-crisis study of political discourse on abortion at the EU level |
| Reviewer:            | M. José González  |

#### 1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

Boonstra has investigated the consequences of crises on discursive changes on an issue that directly affects women's human rights: access to abortion. There is a vast literature on the relationship between economic crises and austerity policies that directly or indirectly touch upon women's rights and living conditions, but studies on reproductive health in times of crisis are very scarce. From this point of view, I consider the research work carried out by the student to be very ambitious, relevant and pioneering.

#### 2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

Boonstra uses a qualitative approach to identify changes in the discourse and policy approach to abortion, as well as the main political actors who have the most weight in the debate, based on the analysis of official EU documents generated in the context of the 2008 financial crisis and the 2020 coronavirus social and health crisis. She has identified the main codes on the key issues in the debate, determined the frequency of these codes in each of the crises analysed and interpreted the arguments and voting behaviour of MEPs. The methodology, although it could be expanded in terms of the number of documents and crises analysed, is adequate for the objectives set by the student.

#### 3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The master thesis is well thought out, the student presents a good literature review and connects the different sections of the research perfectly. Furthermore, I would like to point out that Boonstra has always shown a high degree of independence in the research. She came to the first meeting with very clear ideas and, despite being aware of the time constraints to go deeper into the qualitative analysis, she has done a great work, very mature and socially relevant.

#### 4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

In formal terms, it perfectly meets the expectations for a master's thesis. Further training in the use of Atlas.ti would have allowed her to present more sophisticated results. However, considering the time available for the thesis and the results obtained, I believe that the research objectives have been met.

#### 5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

I believe that all the elements of the Master's thesis are combined in an effective and convincing way. The main strength is the originality of the proposed topic, the risk of researching in a field that has been little explored so far and with great implications for women's living conditions. The weakest aspect is the student's poor knowledge of the qualitative data management and analysis programme (Atlas.ti). However, despite the short time available, I still think she has done a great research and the quality of the thesis denotes the potential and maturity of the researcher.

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|-------------|-----------|
| Grade (A-F) | A (9)     |
| Date        | Signature |
| 20/06/2022  |           |