

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow 2408232 DCU 225122 Charles 15487759 Trento</b>
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	The Role of Internet Service Providers in Protecting Digital Rights

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

<b>Reviewer 1 Initial Grade</b>	<b>Reviewer 2 Initial Grade</b>	<b>Late Submission Penalty</b> no penalty
<b>Word Count Penalty</b> (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
<b>Word Count:</b> 20,067 <b>Suggested Penalty:</b> 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:** A5 [18]      **After Penalty:** A5 [18]

### DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<b>A. Structure and Development of Answer</b>	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Very Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Very Good
<b>B. Use of Source Material</b>	
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>	Excellent
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
<b>C. Academic Style</b>	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent

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• <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
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

This work is a rather interesting and fresh look at the subject of cyber security. The unconventional view is supported by the main research question of what role ISPs play in protecting rights and freedoms. The work looks at this from the perspective that states are not the primary or even the only protectors of human rights; that the internet and access to it is a fundamental right. The author focuses on two cases, the OAS, and the EU.

The work attempts to understand whether ISPs are key players in the protection of digital rights or whether the role is still that of the state.

The work is well structured, with a solid literature review and methodological considerations, justification for theoretical choices. One of the key areas this study focuses on is the blurring of the line between the private sector and the state.

The author did a very good job and offered a very good review of the literature, using a sophisticated methodological approach to the literature analysis. The literature review sets the stage for the theoretical chapter and helps guide the research. It does a good job of identifying gaps in the existing literature and positioning the study to focus on addressing those gaps. It also discusses how the cyber domain complements and, in some ways, extends the traditional domain.

Regarding methodology, a more explicit connection was to be formed between the comparative analysis chapter and the methodological part of the work.

It would have been better to reduce the number of theories in the theoretical part. At some point they overlap. But the work is an interesting attempt to assess the role of ISPs in two regions. This attempt is made through a thorough analysis of the institutional framework of the two regional interstate organizations.

#### **Reviewer 2**

This dissertation focuses on cyber security and the framework of protection and so in that sense very clearly fits the remit of the IMSISS course, very good.

This was an interesting and ambitious project and credit is deserved for the attempt to synthesise a very large body of data on a complex and important topic. The dissertation demonstrated very wide reading of the literature and demonstrated a lot of desk research to collect relevant materials. There were some interesting observations applying Locke and Foucault but the way in which the literature review was presented appeared rather fragmented and disconnected from the 'empirical' chapters. The overarching theoretical basis to the dissertation could have been clearer and the discussion was quite descriptive in places. I felt there could have been more analysis of the data, although understandably, given the broad scope of the study, conclusions in the comparative chapter at the end were quite general.

The rationale for the choice of the EU with the OAS could have been explained more. Perhaps a more straightforward comparison would have been the frameworks of the Council of Europe with the OAS? The discussion in the EU case study confused the Council of Europe with the EU – these are two distinct and separate entities with different membership. So, for example on page 53 the data from the Council of

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Europe (parliamentary assembly 2019) is added into the data of the EU (Karsten) and these are all described as 'EU legislative instruments' which is incorrect.  
And then on page 60: "Concerning the preservation of digital rights, the European Union stipulates in the first section of the *Declaration on Internet Governance Principles* (2011)...(Council of Europe, 2011)" As you note, this 2011 Declaration was authored by the Council of Europe  
Similarly, there was reference to the Parliamentary Assembly and associated documents which is Council of Europe.