

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism

MA THESIS REVIEW

NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!

Review type (choose one):

Review by thesis supervisor Review by opponent

Thesis author:

Surname and given name: Boyd-Madsen Louis

Thesis title: The Ecological Impacts of the Decline of Local Media: Climate Action, Perceptions of Climate Tractability, and Media Consumption in Scotland

Reviewer:

Surname and given name: Neag Annamaria, PhD

Affiliation: IKSZ

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Methodology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Thesis structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific): The changes made are well explained, based on the author's decision to apply a fully quantitative research approach.

2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	A
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	A
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	B
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and to use them correctly	B
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	C
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	B

COMMENTARY (description of thesis content and the main problems):

The thesis starts with a compelling Introduction that sets the scene for a complex, wide-ranging Theoretical Framework. This framework is made of several theories that interconnect to form a strong basis for understanding the thesis' findings. This theoretical complexity makes the text sometimes stuffy, although the figures do provide some aid. The research questions is clearly formulated, but in the hypotheses it is not clear why both 'climate action' and 'civic participation' are mentioned. The methodological chapter presents in detail the steps taken to gather the data. More explanation is needed to understand the numbers in Table 1 (see my question below). The data analysis is done on a reasonable level, and the candidate was able to interpret the results in a sufficient matter.

3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade

3.1	Quality of the structure	B
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	A
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	A
3.4	Quality, quantity and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	A
3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	B
3.6	Use of an academic writing style, and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	A
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	A

(*) in case the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; in case the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems):

This is a well-written, reader-friendly thesis that conforms to the expected academic standards. There were some minor issues with the quotations.

4. OVERALL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis's strengths and weaknesses):

This is a bold thesis that sets out to explore a new path in understanding the relationship between local media and climate action, perceptions of climate change and cultural orientation. The theoretical framework is quite strong, however this is also a weakness of the thesis, as it makes the text sometimes stuffy and difficult to follow. The analysis builds partly on scales used in previous studies, and the author does a sufficient job in explaining the results. The Conclusion could have been better developed.

5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:

5.1	How do you see the difference or similarity between 'climate actions' and 'civic participation'?
5.2	Can you please explain the numbers in Table 1 (Average Cultural Orientation results for respondents)?
5.3	
5.4	

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

The reviewer is familiar with the thesis' score in plagiarism analysis in SIS.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	The score is above the threshold, but there are no major issues noted, beyond similarities in relation with the scales used in the analysis, which draw heavily on previous studies.
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7. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)

- A
 B
 C
 D
 E
 F

If the mark is an "F", please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:

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Date:20.08.2023

Signature:

A finalised review should be printed, signed and submitted in two copies to the secretary of the Department of Media Studies. The electronic version of the review should be converted into a PDF and uploaded to SIS, or sent to the Department of Media Studies secretary who will upload it to SIS on the reviewer's behalf.

Do not upload PDFs with a scanned signature, the review uploaded to SIS must be without signature.