

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2718439 DCU Charles
Dissertation Title	Cyber Security Stagnation in Indonesia and the Philippines: A Comparative Case Study of their Strategies

<p>Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1 gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)</p> <p>Word Count: 21765 Suggested Penalty: no penalty</p>		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark : B2 [16]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
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>	Very Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Good
B. Use of Source Material	
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>	Very Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <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

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This is a very good and well-researched dissertation. The topic was carefully chosen and the dissertation demonstrated the Author's understanding of both cyber-security context and of South-East Asian politics. There are some areas that would have benefitted from improvement, though.

The research question could have been a bit simpler. The introduction would have benefitted from more elaboration of the central argument

While the methodology section discusses in detail how the Author arrived at the research question, which is a good example of self-reflexivity in the writing process, the presentation of the research design could have been more elaborate.

The decision to choose three theoretical frameworks - each based on different set of assumptions - has ultimately weakened the analysis, especially that the Author failed to elaborate how they were going to reconcile those approaches. The analysis itself was well focused on the strategic factor but less clearly related to theoretical frameworks.

The title of chapter 5 is a bit misleading.

The table of contents does not reflect exactly chapter numbers.

Reviewer 2

The presented work deals with the strategic level of Indonesia's cyber security that is compared to the situation in the Philippines. The dissertation is undeniably interesting, original and empirically well-crafted. It is gratifying that the author covers countries that does not appear that often in the cyber security literature. Despite these positive moments, the work also has several shortcomings, which are mostly related to the incomplete research design.

The theoretical part (briefly) discusses two paradigmatic approaches and one partial theory.

However, these play no further role in the analysis. As a result, there is a gap between the theoretical discussion and analysis. The comparative framework also does not offer any analytical categories that would lead the comparison. Therefore, the analysis remains rather descriptive and lacks a disciplinary grounding. In general, the thesis would essentially benefit from a more robust work with disciplinary contexts. Besides many other options, there is a rich literature on (cyber) strategic culture that would clearly fit author's approach and intentions. Last but not least, the paper would benefit from a language review.