

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2701698 DCU 21108919 Charles 33405990
Dissertation Title	The Impact of Cybercrime and Cybersecurity on Nigeria's National Security

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Word Count: 22182		

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

Final Agreed Mark: B3 [15]

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>	Very 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>	Excellent
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
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>	Very Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Very Good
• <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

The topic of cybercrime in Nigeria is a very good and timely one. Cybercrime is a growing problem in Nigeria, and it is important to understand the extent of the problem and the challenges that Nigeria is facing in combating it. The thesis does a good job of exploring the effects of cybercrime in Nigeria, but it could go a bit deeper in some areas. For example, the thesis could explore the economic impact of cybercrime in Nigeria, or the impact of cybercrime on the government and public institutions.

This work does a good job of reviewing and summarizing the different definitions of cybersecurity. It would be beneficial if the thesis developed or adopted a specific definition of cybersecurity for this work. This would help to clarify the scope of the thesis and to ensure that the research is consistent with a particular definition of cybersecurity.

The literature review is very diligently done. The author has clearly read a wide range of literature on cybercrime and cybersecurity. The literature review is well-organized and easy to follow. The thesis has some minor structural and style issues. For example, it could be more concise in some places. However, these issues are minor and do not detract from the overall quality of the thesis.

In the methodology section the author has chosen a variety of methods to collect and analyze data on cybercrime in Nigeria. The methods are appropriate for the research question and the data that is available. It would be good to work more on theoretical models. The combination of three different models and theoretical approaches in the methodology section is a bit confusing. The thesis author could provide more explanation on how these models and theoretical approaches complement each other.

Connecting theoretical and analytical parts would benefit the thesis. The author could do this by providing more explanation of how the theoretical framework informs the analysis of the data.

Overall, the thesis is a good piece of work. The topic is important and timely, the research is well-conducted, and the thesis is well-written. However, there are some areas where the thesis could be improved.

Reviewer 2

The dissertation addresses an important and interesting topic: the effects of cybercrime on different aspects of Nigeria's security. It provides a good overview of the topic, outlining various economic, societal and political 'threats'. There are some significant issues with the execution of the research project.

The contribution of the dissertation is not well-articulated. It was not clear what new insights it offered or what was distinct about the approach (methods, data sources, theoretical framework, etc.) taken by the author. The argument - that cybercrime is deleterious to Nigeria's security - is already well-evidenced in the literature.

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The literature review demonstrates wide reading and a good grasp of the topic. The section on the policy architecture of Nigeria was effective (although it would have more sense to include this discussion in the empirical analysis). More critical engagement with key theoretical debates was needed to situate the dissertation within the literature. For example, debates around the very securitisation of issues like cybercrime was only loosely touched upon.

The author engages with a wide range of sources to support the empirical analysis. The author identifies methodological difficulties in studying illicit activity - the dissertation would have been strengthened by deeper consideration of this point. Process-tracing rather than thematic analysis would have been more suited to the theoretical framework advanced by the author. The inclusion of 'social media analysis' was not well-explained, both in terms of methodological approach (what datasets were used?) and rationale in answering the research questions (are views on social media really relevant to national security?).

There are some interesting insights in the empirical analysis, although these tend to be drawn from secondary literature (e.g. research on the Yahoo Boys). More work was need to structure the findings into a coherent argument. There was also repetition throughout this part of the dissertation.

In sum, the dissertation works reasonably well as a policy brief on the security implications of cybercrime on Nigeria. As a piece of original research, there are significant shortcomings.