

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow</b> 2704438 <b>DCU</b> 233429 <b>Charles</b> 16358708
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	Feminist vision(s) of peace in frozen conflict settings: the case study of Georgia

<p><b>Word Count Penalty</b> (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><b>Word Count:</b> 20064 <b>Suggested Penalty:</b> no penalty</p>		

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

**Final Agreed Mark** A2 [21]

### DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
<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>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Excellent
<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>	Very Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <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
• <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>	Yes

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

This dissertation focuses on the role of women's organisations in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict and post-conflict context, specifically in peacebuilding and reconciliation activities. I truly enjoyed reading it: I particularly appreciated the student's ability to convey the key concepts from the relevant bodies of literature and to apply them to her case study; the student's commitment to produce an empirically-rich study, thanks to the use of site-intensive techniques of data collection and the production of self-reported data; and, at the same time, her awareness of some limitations of her study.

I would like to include here only a couple of remarks, to be considered a suggestions and possible rooms for improving this manuscript (I indeed think that it could be a very good starting point for a possible publication). Whereas in the first part of the manuscript the student states that she intends to refrain from reinforcing "the essentialist conception of womanhood" (p. 30), overall the reader is left with a picture of Georgia-based women organization that is not sufficiently diversified or nuanced. The student admits that there could have been a geographical differentiation among women organization (Tbilisi-based and those based outside the capital), a great effort could have been made to seek other elements specifically characterizing each women organization (i.e. socio-political positioning, proximity to -which?- sites of power, source of funding etc., staff composition, overall agenda...). Probably, the number of interviews could have been increased if local branches/chapters of international women organisations/advocacy networks were included in the study (i.e. UN Women Georgia) as well as Georgian women active in those organisations/networks but residing abroad. Lastly, some insights could have been provided about this topic in the context of other protracted conflicts in the wider region. Again, these are only possible way for further strengthening an already very good dissertation.

#### **Reviewer 2**

The dissertation focuses on the peacebuilding and reconciliation activities implemented by women's organizations in the context of the protracted conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. It employs a Feminist Research Methodology approach and uses semi-structured interviews to gather data. The approach allows for a nuanced understanding of the topic, particularly in the context of women's roles in peacebuilding and reconciliation.

The dissertation provides a comprehensive analysis of the peacebuilding and reconciliation activities implemented by women's organizations in the context of the protracted conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. The author upholds the principles of scholarly integrity and ethical research practices, including preserving confidentiality and anonymity and the rigorous observation of ethical principles governing data collection and analysis.

A special appraisal should be given to the data collection. The research was conducted over a period of three months in Tbilisi, Georgia, and involved interviews with women who hold senior positions in their organizations and have extensive field experience. This provides a rich empirical basis for the research.

While the dissertation presents a comprehensive exploration of the role of women's organizations in peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict, there are several areas that

## **IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet**

could be enhanced. The justification for the specific research questions could be more elaborated, as opposed to the broader feminist approach, which the dissertation justifies well. The literature review, while providing an excellent overview of the feminist peace research agenda, could benefit from engaging with the broader literature about frozen conflicts. This would not only provide a more comprehensive context but also demonstrate how the feminist approach of the dissertation can enrich this literature.

The empirical parts of the dissertation could be more systematically organized and explained, as they currently appear somewhat random. The codebook provided in the appendix offers useful guidance, but more could be done in the main body of the text. Lastly, the conclusion could return more explicitly to the research question, 'How do women's peacebuilding initiatives in the frozen conflict setting of Georgia contribute to conflict transformation?' and discuss the answer in more detail. While the dissertation provides valuable insights into women's perspectives on the conflict, it could offer more on how these initiatives have transformed the conflict.

In summary, the dissertation stands out for its robust theoretical framework, comprehensive analysis, adherence to ethical research practices, rigorous data collection and analysis, and rich empirical evidence despite the minor issues which were mentioned above. These strengths contribute to a well-rounded and insightful exploration of the role of women's organizations in peacebuilding and reconciliation in the context of the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict.