

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow</b> 2685768 <b>DCU</b> 21109672 <b>Charles</b> 77072742
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	Understanding Violence and Conflict: Greenland as a Theory-Building Case Study

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

	<b>Late Submission Penalty</b> no penalty
<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)	
<b>Word Count:</b> 21,425 <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

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>	Excellent
• <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>	Good
• <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>	Very Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
<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>	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 an excellent thesis on a topic, which deserves attention but has been dramatically understudied, i.e. the insertion of politico-security evolution in and around Greenland to conflict dynamics/cycle. The thesis has very thorough research design, and features solid discussion on qualitative case selection/study. The author does a superb job in reviewing existing literature, which guides him to include psychosocial aspects, as much as the identity-based ones. Focus on discrimination, conceptually backed, is chosen as a prominent perspective to study secessionist/othering qualities of Greenland vs administratively dominant Denmark. Implications of the performed empirical analysis are displayed. As for the formatting, style, formal requirements, all is in order here.

#### **Reviewer 2**

This is an ambitious (and in many ways impressive) thesis which attempts to tie together a number of different phenomena and processes in a novel and thought-provoking analysis. This is both a strength and a weakness. The factors explored include suicide, colonialism, trauma, discrimination, mental health, violence, human security, and international relations. Sometimes the connections are rather speculative. Complexity theory or systems thinking would have suggested a more nuanced understanding of how these elements relate to each other. A good case can be made that these phenomena do indeed have an impact on each other, and these links are very much worth researching. However, a nuanced approach is required, due to the causal complexity involved, the interactions between the factors, and the indirect ways in which such multifaceted ideas can manifest themselves and be measured. This analysis tends to be rather deterministic at times. The introduction states that the objective is to identify patterns rather than establish causal links, and this cautious approach is appropriate. In practice, however, a simple and direct causal link between a number of variables and suicide is simply assumed, or stated as a fact. For example, "These conclusions prove that violent conflicts originate from discriminatory practices and structures" (p. 73). A more subtle and nuanced approach would have actually revealed more.

There is an interesting analysis of violence in its broader forms. An innovative theoretical approach has been applied, which involves genuine critical thinking on the part of the research. Discrimination is used as the primary lens through which negative human interactions are viewed. As with any conceptual tool, there is the risk that a wide range of human dynamics and interactions become reduced to a one-dimensional representation.

It is important to mention that the thesis has been written with great sensitivity and empathy for those affected by the issues, and a desire to understand the dynamics better so that things might be improved. These are excellent qualities in a researcher. It would be interesting to learn about the gender breakdown of suicide rates. There is no analysis of factors which usually feature in public health or psychological research, such as alcohol.

The word count is slightly below the minimum for one stream, but within the acceptable limits for another stream. Examiners have not been informed which stream students took, so it is not possible to ascertain if this student has met the requirements regarding word count.