

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

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| <b>Student Matriculation No.</b> | <b>Glasgow</b> 2712429 <b>DCU</b> 21109087 <b>Charles</b> 14070740                                    |
| <b>Dissertation Title</b>        | How can intelligence be used for benign purposes, in order to solve current global governance issues? |

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| <b>Word Count</b> 24174: |  |  |

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

**Final Agreed Mark.** 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>                           | 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>  | Excellent    |
| • <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>                             | Excellent    |
| • <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>  | Excellent    |
| • <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>  | Good         |
| • <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 |
| • <i>Appropriate word count</i>  | Yes          |

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### **ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS**

#### **Reviewer 1**

This is a highly original and ambitious dissertation. It is very well embedded in the topical literature and demonstrates the Author's familiarity with key debates in the field of intelligence studies. The introduction is coherent and substantive, though it might have been a bit more concise. The literature review is well written. Methodology is discussed in-depth and self-reflexively. Empirical material is novel - interviews with private intelligence companies' representatives. The argumentation is persuasive and the conclusions justified. The Author is aware of limitations of the research.

There are minor weaknesses, such as the use of "we" instead of "I" and the overuse of italics when quoting. Chapters' titles are a bit misleading. The grounded theory is an under-used (or perhaps unnecessary) element.

Overall, it is an excellent dissertation, with an original research design and good execution.

#### **Reviewer 2**

The dissertation attempts to investigate positive impacts of private intelligence companies on global governance issues. This is an interesting perspective on private intelligence providers, since most of the scholarship is critical. That being said, risks related to private intelligence providers are acknowledged. The topic is indeed unusual and surely brought profound methodological challenges. The analysis of several private intelligence providers is robust and focuses on frameworks that delimit their activities within broader ethical standards. Positive impacts of private intelligence providers are surveyed well and also very well connected to global governance issues according to the UN. The results are persuasive and interviews help to reinforce the argument. However, the dissertation lacks a critical perspective, which should be intrinsic to any social scientific research. The key is not to uncritically adopt the views of private intelligence providers. Instead, they should be subjected to critical scrutiny on the part of the researcher. Overall, this is an interesting dissertation on a timely topic, which, in retrospect, could have been a bit more critical in engaging with the collected evidence.