



# Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2022/2023

**Student's name and surname:** Alicia Valdivia Cuenca  
**Student's ID:** 70802555

**Type of the study programme:** Master's (post-Bachelor)  
**Study programme:** International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies (IMSISS)

**Study ID:** 722545

**Title of the thesis:** Grey geopolitics: Morocco and the strategic use of hybrid warfare in Spanish territories in North Africa.  
**Thesis department:** Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** Ian Paterson, Dr.  
**Date of defence:** 22.09.2023    **Venue of defence:** Praha  
**Attempt:** regular

**Course of defence:** The student began by explaining the motivation behind her research, linking them to an observed empirical-theoretical puzzle and a lacuna in existing research, with no study comprehensively addressing the issue. Next, the student moved to describe her research objectives and questions, explaining how these would be addressed by her approach and showing the boundaries of her research. Spending a few words about her theoretical framework, the student described her methodology and explained how her envisaged approach was to address her puzzle, including by specifying her hypotheses. Then, the student presented her conclusions, explaining in some detail the dynamics underpinning them. Next, the student reacted to some of the critiques she received. She mentioned some of the limitations her research encountered in terms of referencing, explained the reason and agreed with the critique. She addressed also another critique, one related to the re-applicability of her research framework and engagement with previous works, justifying her choices with recourse to the scope of an MA thesis. She also conceded that a critical review of the concept of hybrid warfare would have benefited the work but was beyond the scope. The committee asked how the empirical findings of the work interact with IR theories. The student acknowledged she had not looked into that. Another question was about the ethics of labelling migrants as a weapon and asked whether it could not justify harsh responses to them. Was the thesis critical of such a discourse? The student recognized that it had some implications for the issue but said that there was not much scope for the consideration in the thesis.

<b>Result of defence:</b>	excellent (B)	
<b>Chair of the board:</b>	prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present)	.....
<b>Committee members:</b>	Georgios Glouftsios (present)	.....
	Marcin Kaczmarek, Dr. (present)	.....