IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	**Glasgow** 2685712 **DCU** 21109524 **Charles** 80173014
Dissertation Title	Security a la AMLO: An Evaluation of the Militarisation of Mexican Law Enforcement

Word Count Penalty *(1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)*

Word Count: 22,669 ***Suggested Penalty:*** no penalty

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

> ***Final Agreed Mark*** B1 [17]

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	
• *Originality of topic*	Excellent
• *Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified*	Good
• *Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work*	Very Good
• *Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions*	Very Good
• *Application of theory and/or concepts*	Excellent
B. Use of Source Material This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• *Evidence of reading and review of published literature*	Very Good
• *Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument*	Very Good
• *Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence*	Very Good
• *Accuracy of factual data*	Very Good
C. Academic Style This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• *Appropriate formal and clear writing style*	Excellent
• *Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation*	Excellent
• *Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)*	Very Good
• *Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?*	-Select from list-
• *Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)*	Not required

• *Appropriate word count*	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This Master's Thesis addresses a novel and highly relevant topic concerning Mexican security panorama. The author engages with the current state of the militarisation of the Guardia Nacional, the main national authority for public security created in 2019 in lieu of the disbanded Federal Police. Ms. Walker also inquires about the societal implications of this militarisation in terms of citizen security, human rights, police reform and impunity. The thesis findings have important indications with regards to the civilan -military relationships in Mexico. There is a striking imbalance in the first and second part of the Theis (The 1st part has 90 pages, the 2nd part has 9 pages). The author can be credited for working with sources other than English.

As this Thesis supervisor, however, I must admit that the final text of the dissertation represents a major puzzle to me. The author has struggled to formulate a coherent research design during the dissertation writing process to the very end. Monthly plan of action was not met, and when the final draft of the thesis was presented to me as a supervisor in mid-July 2023 – some days prior to the dissertation final delivery on July 26 – it contained just four of the final eight chapters, less than a half of its extension, and none of the research questions. There existed some serious lagoons in the methodology section, there was no debate about the implications of the Guardia Nacional shift to militarization (Chapter 7), there was no Content Discourse Analysis, nor bibliography.

In short, the resulting Thesis delivered for assessment does not fully correspond to the Thesis writing process I experienced with the candidate throughout 2022-2023. I invite the author to explain this during the defence.

Reviewer 2

I found this thesis very well conceived, excellently written and structured, and overall very convincing.

The front matter, including lengthy and detailed ToC, List of (Tables and) Figures, and List of Abbreviations, are all in order. The Abstract is of an appropriate length and synopises the project well.

The Introduction supplies the reader with clear and thorough context for the work, contains clearly stated research questions (x2), and describes the thesis' overall structure accurately. More attention to the project's findings here would have been appropriate, but is not a major lacuna.

The literature review considers the appropriate literatures on militarisation generally, in Latin America, of LEAs, etc. The theories desribed, discussed, and deployed are, again, fitting.

My main issue with the thesis was around the data and methods. The data was described (pp.'s 32 - 36) as if it had not yet been collected and was therefore lacking specificity. In addition, the methodology section didn't actually discuss the methods employed. CDA was only mentioned cursorily in the Findings section as having been employed.

Overall, I thought this was a very strong thesis. I am less concerned than the other grader with the imbalance between the two sections, as I felt the implications of the GN's militarisation were well teased out and needn't have been any lengthier. I am concerned though by the other grader's mention of the thesis' very partial completion when last she reviewed it and agree that this aspect of the project should be addressed in the Viva.