



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

Academic year: 2022/2023

**Student's name and surname:** Anna Gabriela Huerta Ludlow  
**Student's ID:** 43583897

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

**Study ID:** 722493

**Title of the thesis:** Territorial Loss to Organized Crime: Assessing National Security Challenges in Mexico and Brazil  
**Thesis department:** Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** David Erkomaishvili, Ph.D.  
**Date of defence:** 21.09.2023    **Venue of defence:** Praha  
**Attempt:** regular

**Course of defence:** The student introduced her research which was about how organized crime may lead to the loss of territorial loss. Concretely, she was interested in the dynamics and processes that might lead to such occurrence. The student introduced where she came from and what theoretical points of departure she considered. Methodologically, she chose a comparative case study of Mexico and Brazil, a choice she then justified. Overall, her focus was to explore the dynamics of how specific organized crime actors operate within given territories and how these might be related to processes that lead to the loss of sovereign control on the part of the state. The student then moved to detail some of the important factors and findings of her analysis. The committee cut in and led the student to specify her methodology, data sources, and the conclusions. She pointed out how the state originally benefits from these groups but how they in turn might turn into a security problem. The the student moved to the reviews: 1) literature review could be more focused and specific - the student said she was not sure why she received the feedback and explained what she was going for with her conceptual framework and justified the way she did her lit. review; 2) more specific methodology - the student recognized that she could have explained better what she did and why; 3) how do the processes actually work? - the student suggested that her work in the end had to be more descriptive to be comprehensive. One committee member noted that the thesis was an interesting one and asked: to what extent did the student understand the processes identified as a „parallel social contract“. The student conceded that at some low levels it really might generate such an alternative contract. The committee thanked the student and announced her successful completion of the defense.

**Result of defence:** excellent (B)

**Chair of the board:** prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present) .....

**Committee members:** Marcin Kaczmarski, Dr. (present) .....

Sarah Leonard (present) .....