



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

Academic year: 2022/2023

Student's name and surname: Stella Caroline den Hartog
Student's ID: 67499995

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

Study ID: 722478

Title of the thesis: Unmasking the Gendered Power Play through Feminist Foreign Policy - Why It Is Breaking Boundaries, But Not Chains. A Comprehensive Analysis of Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy through its Arms Exports and Development Aid

Thesis department: Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)

Language of the thesis: English

Language of defence: English

Advisor: Helen Hardman, Dr.

Date of defence: 21.09.2023 **Venue of defence:** Praha

Attempt: regular

Course of defence: The student briefly introduced her thesis. She began with her topic: feminist foreign policy, a new innovate phenomenon, adopted in Sweden. The goal is to put gender security at the heart of foreign policy. Thus, she focused on Sweden and found that the arms sector is quite an important sector in Sweden. She wanted to be original and asked how these two things go together (research question). Methods-wise, she combined qualitative and quantitative. She then moved to some issues she discussed, first how there is the importance to prevent illicit trade with arms / or trade with countries that do not conform to a democratic status principle - to that end, she retrieved data from SIPRI. She focused on Pakistan, with which Sweden trades in arms highly. Then, the student explained how these considerations led her to adopt a specific theoretical framework. Then, she explained how what she did found that Sweden's foreign policy did not align in this case with the gender foreign policy, as Pakistan is not really developed in terms of gender security. Moving to the reviews, the student mentioned that the first reviewer found the topic important and timely but that it was lacking focus, used inappropriate data and questioned her legal framework, there were also missing explanations relating to case study selection, too much focus on data, lack of coherent theoretical framework. The student explained her data selection and conceded that she did put too much on her plate. Moving on to the legal framework, she explained the choice of the treaties she focused on. The student then presented the second reviewer's critique: a good fit for IMSISS but again suffering from a number of issues, very much aligned with the first review. Highlighted was that the work lacked a deeper exploration of the

relation between gender security and arms trade as such. The student acknowledged the critique but defended her analytical moves as they reflected what she was trying to find out within the scope of her thesis. More theory and qualitative data would have helped, she added. The committee reiterated the reviewers' points, stressing how the relationship between gender FP and arms trade should have been the center of her work. Then the committee asked about the student's theoretical framework, to which the student repeated and extended upon some of the points she had already mentioned. She again conceded that the theoretical part should have been more developed. The committee seconded this. Then, there was also a comment, a suggestion on how the student's work might benefit from setting her research in the overall context of Sweden's foreign policy in general. The student agreed. The committee the student know that she passed the defense.

Result of defence:	very good (D)	
Chair of the board:	prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Marcin Kaczmarski, Dr. (present)
	Sarah Leonard (present)