

IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2678671 DCU 21108986 Charles 66983551
Dissertation Title	Empathy, Local Knowledge and the Construction of Suffering: an Analysis of the Epistemological Limitations of the US Militaries Approach to Civilian Harm Mitigation and Reporting

<p>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)</p> <p>Word Count: 22,567 Suggested Penalty: no penalty</p>		

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

Final Agreed Mark: A3 [20]

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	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Excellent
B. Use of Source Material	
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>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
C. Academic Style	
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>	Very Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Very Good
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	No

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

Based on the assumption that reality is socially constructed, and language is one of the chief mechanisms by which our sense of reality is negotiated, the dissertation aimed to analyze how the US military constructs suffering in a way which allows civilian harm to take place.

This is an excellent dissertation, exemplifying a high standard of research at the MA level. It stands out due to the originality of the issue choice and the rigorous methodology, demonstrating the student's depth of knowledge and ability to critically analyze a very complex topic.

One of the dissertation's strengths is its precise grounding of the analysis in a conceptual framework to support the elaboration of clear research questions and hypotheses. This allows for an appropriate integration of theoretical assumptions with empirical research, resulting in a cohesive narrative that substantiates the author's claims and strengthens the overall argumentation.

The dissertation employs a well-elaborated and rigorous methodology, ensuring the reliability and validity of the findings. The empirical analysis is skillfully conducted, while the overall structure and language of the dissertation are of high quality. Each section seamlessly flows into the next, guiding the reader through a logical progression of ideas and arguments.

Reviewer 2

This is an excellent thesis, which deals with a largely understudied phenomenon, i.e. why the US military fails to adequately approach, mitigate and report civilian harm. The thesis sets out with a solid research design, identifying the perspective to the issue through a lit-review section as a blind spot. The main orienting device becomes a gendered analysis.

The author does a good job in utilising the means of nuanced discourse analysis. The division of the analysis into parts dealing with classification and genderisation is fresh and fits well with the first part. The part focused on construction of the suffering is very strong, especially with the inclusion of divergencies and obfuscations, e.g. collateral damage or infrastructure-centred official language. Finally, approaching local knowledge as being socially constructed and emotions-based allows the author to fully expose the epistemological limits in the issue.

As for the style, formatting, terminology and references, all is in order here. The thesis uses rich and diverse sources and the linguistic and stylistic quality is adequate.