



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Russell Burrell

Title: Ontological security, radicalisation and violent extremism: a practical approach

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2024

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Emil Aslan

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	8
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	38
<i>Total</i>		80	76
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	96



Evaluation

Major criteria: This is an exceptional piece of research. The author deals with nuanced – and at times flexible – notions and concepts. Yet he still manages to interlink them in a sensible fashion that is not only analytical, yet yield tangible results. The result is a fascinating work that, via applying Anthony Giddens' concept of ontological security, sheds light on how extremist content is weaponized by far-right discourse(s) to destabilize individual's sense of ontological security.

The thesis draws on clearly stated research questions. It engages with the properly identified research problem and is thus anchored in the study of the relevant research literature. Important terms and concepts are defined at the onset of the thesis. Although with certain (minor) weaknesses, the data and methods are proper and the empirical analysis is well researched and well written. The thesis is logically structured and arrives at fairly clear findings.

I suggest that the author publishes his work in the form of a journal article: either on his own, with his supervisor whose area of expertise is close to the author's. I also suggest the author gives a thought to pursuing a PhD degree at Charles University – if interested, I'd be happy to provide him with further information or serve as his academic supervisor.

Minor criteria:

In my opinion, the application of the concept of ontological security is rather unnecessary. Even without it, the author would have arrived to clear conclusions.

Assessment of plagiarism:

None detected.

Overall evaluation:

This is an excellent thesis. It is well-researched, well-presented, structured. It is theoretically-informed, fairly robust in terms of empirical data and their analysis.

Suggested grade: A

Signature: *Emil Aslan*



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