



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

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: Russell Eugene Burrell, BA
Student's ID: 67643275

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: Political Science
Branch of study: Master in International Security Studies
Study ID: 678782

Title of the thesis: Ontological security, radicalisation and violent extremism: a practical approach
Thesis department: Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Mgr. Jonathan Collins
Reviewer(s): prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D.
Date of defence: 31.01.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: The committee began by presenting the results of the written part and asked the student to briefly present his thesis. The student began by his research question. From there, the student went to the specification of his methodologies and explained his choice for the given phenomenon. Moving on, then student described his theoretical background, notably ontological security, and explained why this worked for his purposes and how it would fit in with the methodology. The analysis itself operated at three levels (of discourse), which the student explained worked nicely with the concept of ontological security. Following that, the student described how he proceeded in his analysis, illustrating the work with a conceptual-theoretical debate and examples. When it came to results, the student noted the work showed interesting (possibly new) findings. Turning to the reviews, the committee noted the second reader's praise; when it came to the supervisor, more criticism was there, including regarding literature reviews and some conceptual deficiencies. However, the committee mentioned a disconnect between the supervisor's written review and his grade. Based on that, the student was asked to react. The student talked about the hardships he faced when it came to the analysis. To make his point, he followed by an empirical example showcasing the extreme complexities faced by a researcher studying radicalization. The committee intervened to clarify and the student proceeded to summarize and justify his approach, noting gaps in existing literature. On the conceptual properties of the work, the student explained his understanding and discussed broader theoretical implications of his approach. Also, the student noted that a lot of the concerns raised in the reviews he had written at first but decided to

cut off due to his scope and aim. The committee followed up, suggesting that the narrowing down was a good idea, as it served the thesis, but would make it more likely for the thesis to be criticized on the grounds of missing something. The student agreed and finished off with a more anecdotal discussion.

Result of defence: excellent (A)

Chair of the board: prof. Mgr. Oldřich Bureš, Ph.D., M.A.
(present)

Committee members: PhDr. JUDr. Tomáš Karásek, Ph.D. (present)
Mgr. et Mgr. Tomáš Kučera, Ph.D. (present)