



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Josef Mališ

Title: Anti-System Activism in the Czech Republic: Radicalization Pathways and the Quest for Significance

Programme/year: Security Studies / 2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/second reader): Jan Ludvik

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	36
<i>Total</i>		80	72
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	93



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis presents a clear and well-motivated research question, addressing the significant issue of anti-system activism in the Czech Republic and its radicalization pathways. The objectives align well with this question, establishing a solid foundation for the study. The use of the Significance Quest Theory as the main theoretical framework is systematic and well-suited to the analysis, which is a notable strength. However, the rationale for selecting this framework over others could be more explicitly detailed to strengthen the theoretical foundation.

The empirical analysis is meticulously conducted, using semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis. However, the development of thematic analysis needs clarification, particularly how themes were deductively identified from theories. There is also a lack of conceptual depiction of key elements such as 'needs,' 'narratives,' and 'networks.'

Additionally, while the thesis applies the Significance Quest Theory thoroughly, the analysis occasionally appears to fit the data to the theory. Many aspects of the findings, such as the impact of personal troubles like broken relationships on radicalization, are common experiences that may not be specific to radical activists. The analysis could be broadened to consider additional factors like domestic political dynamics and socio-economic conditions. Overall, the thesis is strong but would benefit from these enhancements to provide a more holistic and robust analysis.

Minor criteria:

The thesis employs a comprehensive range of sources, including academic literature, primary data from interviews, and observations, which enhances its credibility. The use of original interviews is particularly commendable and adds valuable primary data to the research. The writing style is clear, coherent, and academically sound, making the complex concepts accessible to the reader. Additionally, the thesis meets all formal requirements, including proper formatting, citation style, and length, adhering to the academic standards expected at the graduate level.



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Assessment of plagiarism:

Based on the anti-plagiarism software checks, it is formally confirmed that the submitted thesis is original and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, does not, in an ethically unacceptable manner, draw from the works of other authors.

Overall evaluation:

This thesis demonstrates significant strengths through its use of original interview data, which adds valuable primary insights, and the application of the Significance Quest Theory, providing a robust theoretical framework. The extensive literature review further enriches the study by situating it within the broader academic discourse. While there are areas for improvement, particularly in the identification and conceptualization of themes in the thematic analysis, these limitations are minor compared to the thesis's strengths. Overall, the thesis presents a well-rounded and insightful analysis that makes a valuable contribution to the field.

Suggested grade: A

Signature: