



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

**Author:** Sara Camussi

**Title:** Constructing Indigenous Identity: Critical Discourse Analysis of the “Yes” and “No” Campaigns in the 2023 “The Voice” Referendum in Australia

**Programme/year:** MAIN/2024

**Author of Evaluation (supervisor):** Anna Kotvalová

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	30
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	59
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	78



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

Sara decided to „conduct an extensive and in-depth investigation into the discourse constructed around Indigenous identity in Australia within the context of the 2023 Referendum on the “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice” and defined her research question as “How did the 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns for the Voice Referendum shape the representation of Indigenous identity? “

The thesis provides us with an in-depth context chapter in which the author outlines all the relevant historical and political aspects of the topic. The theoretical chapter outlines relevant theories and theoretical literature ranging from Foucault’s perception of discourse to post-colonial research. Although these chapters provide us with some overview of the relevant scholars, the postcolonial chapter could use a bit more substance. I would also appreciate a more in-depth debate around the concept of identity in IR.

In the methodological chapter, Sara coherently explains why she decided to use DHA, specifically the methodological framework by Reisigl and Wodak and elaborates on each step of this framework arguing how it is relevant for her own research. Additionally, the data selection is also well explained although it is missing an explanation why Sara decided to use these data rather than other textual materials connected to the “Yes” and “No” campaign.

In the original analysis, Sara follows the steps outlined by Reisigl and Wodak, but the analysis faces several shortages. Firstly, from the structural point of view, the analysis might have been divided into two main chapters “Yes” and “No” and the methodological steps could have been structured around these two. It would provide a more coherence to the analysis and it would be easier to compare these two. Secondly, the interpretation of the results of the analysis comes across as quite superficial and it fails to connect back it to the theoretical section.

Despite these shortages, Sara managed to coherently outline her research results in her chapter “*Discussion of Results: Representation of Indigenous Identity.* “

The conclusion is rather brief, and it mainly summarizes the results and the structure of the thesis. In regard to the topic, I would appreciate more elaborate discussion about the possibilities of the future research and both theoretical and practical connections of the research to the current state of international affairs, for example the interesting debate around identity in nowadays IR.



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**Minor criteria:**

I do not have any major problems with formal and stylistic aspects of the thesis.

**Assessment of plagiarism:**

Turnitin did not find any problems.

**Overall evaluation:**

Overall, I believe that Sara dedicated enough time to the thesis, and it is apparent from the coherent research design, a good ontological connection between theoretical and methodological chapters and deep understanding of the topic.

Although the thesis holds to the standards of master thesis, it might benefit from a bigger critical theoretical debate surrounding the concept of identity in IR, more in-depth original analysis and critical assessment of the research results.

**Suggested grade:**

**C**

**Signature:**