

BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Justifying Civil Disobedience in the Context of the Climate Justice Protests in Germany
Student's name:	Leo Becker
Referee's name:	Janusz Salamon

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	44	
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	14	
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	
Total		72	
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	4	
Total		19	
TOTAL		91	

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria:

In his Bachelor's thesis, Leo Becker developed a persuasive account of climate-related civil disobedience which yields conditions for justification of illegal forms of climate protests. He does so by delving with philosophical skill and methodological rigour into the current scholarly debates about the justification of civil disobedience and the climate-justice theory, adapting the radical-democratic justificatory strategy as the foundation for his theoretical framework for assessment of illegal protests in the name of climate justice. In the process, Leo Becker shows himself in full command of the philosophical resources expected of a student pursuing an interdisciplinary degree, and his argumentative skills are put to a good effect. While it may be difficult to point to specific failures, Leo Becker's thesis can be characterised as solid rather than groundbreaking, since its contribution consists in careful consideration of the usefulness of the conceptual resources found in the ongoing scholarly debates. The third, „applied“ part of the thesis yields modest but not negligible results, since it would seem that Leo Becker's theory emerges as a potential guide for the future climate protests, specifying conditions for such protests which have not been met so far. A more humorous

and less charitable (but probably unwarranted) reading of the third chapter might be that the analysis of the actual climate protests in Germany shows that protests that would meet the conditions specified by Leo Becker's theory are unlikely to take place. The long summary of all chapters of the thesis presented towards the end of the thesis strikes one – given the brevity of the thesis – as somewhat repetitive, although not useless.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): A

Suggested questions for the defence are:

What might explain the virtual absence of the climate protests in Germany that would follow the pattern implied in Leo Becker account of climate-related civil disobedience?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.