FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Giulia Bellabarba

Title: Blame Games at the European Union Level: How the blame for the migration crisis in Italy gets shifted to the European Union

Programme/year: International Relations, 2023/2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Jan Karlas

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	32
Total		*80*	66
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	8
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	3
Total		*20*	16
TOTAL		*100*	82

Evaluation

Major criteria:

Among the strong aspects of the thesis, it is possible to include a focus on a concrete topic – an analysis of the attitudes of two concrete political actors.

The thesis is well anchored in a very suitable conceptual framework – the framework of blame games. The author uses the framework to identify useful conceptual categories.

In methodological terms, the author selected a suitable approach – content analysis. The methodological approach is relatively well elaborated. For example, it chooses an explicit strategy for unitization.

The analysis is well done. The author succeeds in keeping her focus on the three types of blame games introduced in the conceptual part and analysing to which of these types the two explored actors reacted. In my opinion, a certain limitation is the fact that the author does not code in an exact manner the individual statements, which could make the findings more substantiated. Yet, the discovered links between the two politicians and the three categories are substantiated.

As for the weaknesses:

- the analysis of the statements could be a bit deeper
- while the analysis of which statements are used is substantiated, the analysis of the reasons for their use is less substantiated, because the thesis does not have an analytical and methodological apparatus to tackle this question precisely
- I cannot find any references to the posts in the text (it seems to me that the text includes only references to the speeches) and I cannot find the personal accounts of Meloni and Salvini in the final references. In general, referencing to structures is a little unclear.
- the analysis would be richer if it was contextualised by secondary sources and did not rely only on the content analysis
- the final list of references does not have an appropriate structure of primary and secondary sources (it instead uses section theories, Salvini, Meloni).

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Minor criteria:

Assessment of plagiarism:

The Turnitin check indicates a 22% of overall similarity, but according to my reading of these results the thesis does not commit plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis selects an appropriate topic, conceptual framework and method. Generally speaking, the analysis is well executed. As for the weaknesses, the analysis of the statements could be a bit deeper and use also some secondary sources. I am also not sure if the posts from the personal accounts are properly referenced and in general the references to the primary sources could be made in a more systematic way.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature:

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