



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: MAIN/2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/second reader): Kristián Földes

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	32
<i>Total</i>		80	68
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	7
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	3
<i>Total</i>		20	14
TOTAL		100	82



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis is notable for its clarity in terms of research questions and objectives, which are well-defined and consistent with the study's goals. However, placing these questions before the table of contents, rather than in the introduction or theoretical part as expected, is unusual and undermines academic standards. Despite this, the research remains concentrated, beginning with a thorough and exhaustive introduction that establishes a solid foundation.

The theoretical framework is strong, effectively applying blame game theories—scapegoat, diffusion, and renegade—to the behaviour of Italian leaders. However, the literature evaluation may be more broad, rather than relying too much on a small number of sources. Some sections rely extensively on only one or two references, and a few in-text citations are misplaced, reducing the credibility of the claims.

The methodology is well-documented, with a clear qualitative content analysis of Matteo Salvini and Giorgia Meloni. However, the lack of a list of keywords used for coding, as well as the absence of graphical representations of results (such as charts or tables), negatively impact the research's credibility. These omissions make it difficult to determine whether the findings are well-supported by evidence or simply the author's subjective judgements.

The writing is generally simple and concise, with an effective introduction. However, the thesis contains minor grammatical errors, redundant parts, and misplaced in-text citations. Furthermore, adherence to formal criteria is inadequate including formatting errors such as pagination inconsistencies, uneven use of headings, and the absence of items such as an abbreviation list. The table of contents is also less thorough than it should be.

Minor criteria:

The writing is generally simple and concise, with an effective introduction. However, the thesis contains minor grammatical errors, redundant parts, and misplaced in-text citations. Furthermore, adherence to formal criteria is inadequate including formatting errors such as pagination inconsistencies, uneven use of headings.



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Assessment of plagiarism:

Turnitin plagiarism check revealed a 22% resemblance to other documents. However, a follow-up review revealed no severe concerns, implying that the similarities are most likely attributable to popular phrases or correctly mentioned references rather than plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

Overall, the thesis gives useful insights on blame games in the context of the EU and the Italian migration crisis, but has notable shortcomings in literature coverage, content analysis presentation, and formatting lower its academic standards. Addressing these flaws would significantly improve the thesis' quality and professional presentation. Despite these weaknesses, the thesis demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the subject and lays a solid platform for future research on blame-shifting in international relations.

Suggested grade: B

Signature: