



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Nelson Tang

Title: We Are Family: The Welfare State Agendas of European Populist Radical Right Parties Between 1990 and 2021

Programme/year: Masters in International Security Studies / 2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): PhDr. Vilém Novotný, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	29
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	36
<i>Total</i>		80	75
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	95

Evaluation

Major criteria:

Research question, definition of objectives

The research questions and definition of objectives are well set, and the thesis answers them. I emphasize extraordinary analytical thinking when approaching the questions and answers.

Theoretical/conceptual framework

The thesis presents a well-developed theoretical and conceptual framework concerning populism and historical institutionalism. Through these lenses, the thesis purposefully addresses the issue of populist radical right parties and compares them.



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Methodology, analysis, argument

The thesis represents a complex, precise, and targeted approach that brings the findings needed to answer the research questions. The thesis presents a thoroughly developed methodology and research design as well as a robust analysis with a well-explained argument. In this respect, I appreciate the meaningful combination of quantitative and qualitative methods – unusually well done for a diploma thesis. I would only appreciate a stronger reference to the theoretical conceptualization (p. 24) and historical institutionalism to understand the models and analysis better.

Minor criteria:

Sources

The literature is very complex and covers all parts of the thesis. The use of data is in line with the thesis' purpose. I would like to emphasize that the work with data and their scale is impressive for a diploma thesis.

Style

The stylistic and text editing is also very good, with only a few orthographical issues. The work with references follows the selected citation style.

Formal requirements

The study fulfills all formal requirements from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University.

Assessment of plagiarism: Turnitin, 28% similarity

I checked the Turnitin results, and I have not found any trace of plagiarism. Most of the similarity is based on formal parts of the thesis and the reference list. There are also quite a lot of original direct quotations related to the analysis – all well cited.

Overall evaluation:

Nelson Tang's submitted diploma thesis addresses a highly interesting issue of populist radical right political parties from a comparative perspective. The issue is very relevant because of contemporary political development, which brings comparative consideration of the Western and Eastern radical right populist parties and their relation to the welfare state. In this respect, the thesis is highly up-to-date and innovative.

The thesis has several substantial benefits for the field.

First, it represents an innovative mix of quantitative and qualitative methods.

Second, it brings new insights in comparison of populist radical right parties in the new and old member states.

Third, it presents interesting findings that are worth publishing.

In sum, I appreciate the thesis and encourage the author to publish his findings. It is an example of complex work linking theory, empirical analysis, and critical thinking together.

Suggested grade: For the above reasons, I recommend the thesis for defense with an A.



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Signature: