



Universiteit  
Leiden

# Thesis evaluation Chi-Hsuan Tsao

## Student details:

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## Programme details

**Programme:** European Politics and Society

**Specialisation:**

**EC:** 30

## Evaluators:

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## Thesis details:

**Title:** Economic Promise from the East and Skepticism to the West.  
How populist parties act differently when it comes to China: The Cases  
of Poland's Law and Justice and Hungary's Fidesz

Is the thesis in your assessment free of plagiarism?

Yes to my knowledge the thesis is free of plagiarism

x

Can the thesis be made publicly available in the Leiden University  
Repository?

by N. Styczyńska: it can be made public through the repository.

# Summary assessment/comments

Overall it's a solid work on the timely topic

## Criteria

### Knowledge and insight

The thesis looks at a highly relevant topic of populist foreign policy towards China and it presents two case studies from Central Europe: Poland and Hungary.

The research puzzle, framework and theoretical framework are properly defined and explained.

There are some inconsistencies and shortages when it comes to clarity (it's not sure from the beginning what the timeframe is) and surprisingly, the literature review omits works on exactly the same topic such as: Kopper, Akos, Szalai, Andras and Góra, Magdalena (2023). Populist Foreign Policy in Central and Eastern Europe: Poland, Hungary and the Shock of the Ukraine Crisis. In: Giurlando, P., Wajner, D.F. (eds) Populist Foreign Policy. Global Foreign Policy Studies. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. Also, the discussion about the CEE specifics of populism could be more elaborated and include authors conducting research on that area for years. There is a reference to Eurosceptic populism but barely any literature on this phenomena is discussed.

**Assessment:** good

**Weighing:** n/a

### Application of knowledge and insight

The structure of the work is clear, the concepts are applied properly. The methodology chosen by the Author is foreign policy analysis (FPA) and process tracing which is explained in detail but not rigorously applied later. It may leave the impression that the methodological framework was not fully applied to the study. The author states that the aim of the thesis "is to investigate the impacts of populists on the decision-making bodies" but the measurement of the "impact" remains quite general - the reader is not informed what types of documents/policies the Author assessed and how it was done. The descriptive part of the thesis (PL and HU relations with China) would benefit from more examples of the impact of populism on FP-making.

**Assessment:** (more than) satisfactory

**Weighing:** n/a

### Reaching conclusions

The conclusions are clear, well written and follow the requirements. The limitations of the research are rightly pointed out. The thesis question is answered although there are some short comings when it comes to the hypothesis - the final conclusions could be more elaborate and follow the structure proposed in the methodological part.

**Assessment:** good

**Weighing:** n/a

## Communication

Well written, with no language issues (style and spelling are correct), and some minor referencing problems but do not influence the general perception of the work. Layout of the thesis is correct and according to the programme guidelines.

**Assessment:** very good

**Weighing:** n/a

## Formal requirements

All according to the guidelines

## Final assessment

This thesis is graded with a 7.5

## Signatures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Styczyńska', written in a cursive style.

N. Styczyńska