



## PROTOCOL – THESIS DEFENCE

<b>Student Name</b>	Chi-Hsuan Tsao (Max)
<b>Student Number</b>	4039149
<b>Study Programme</b>	MA European Politics and Society
<b>Study Period</b>	2022-2024
<b>Thesis Title</b>	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

<b>DEFENCE DETAILS</b>	
<b>Date</b>	18 July 2024
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Chair – Title, Name, Role</b>	Dr Joost Augusteijn – Chair, MA EPS Programme, Leiden
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Chair – Title, Name, Role</b>	Dr Daniel Schade – Thesis Supervisor, Leiden
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Chair – Title, Name, Role</b>	Martin Mejsatrik – Deputy Director, MA EPS Programme, Charles University

### **Comments from Defence Committee on Student Defence**

The student was asked both by Dr Augusteijn and Dr Mesjtrik what the impact was on the findings of the lack of Hungarian and Polish language skills. Did this not predicate the outcomes and make them dependent on other people's choices? The student gave a good account by making clear he was aware of these but remedied these by taking sources from think tanks and other organisations that were both supportive as well as critical of the respective governments. It also included sources in Mandarin which provided an additional perspective not often found in Western research.

The student was then asked about the way the factors influencing the policies were identified. In what way were they derived from the theoretical literature and were they all encompassing? The student did acknowledge there was a certain level of arbitrariness in the choice of factors looked at but gave a convincing argument they were widely seen as relevant.

The student was also asked about the relevance of the findings for the wider literature. The student responded by highlighting different ways in which his thesis contributes to varying strands of literature, such as on populist foreign policy or empirically on the motivations of PiS and Fidesz. Given the dynamic nature of politics in both countries considered for this thesis the student was also asked whether the two parties in question would likely adapt their behaviour towards if circumstances changed. The student then highlighted that in line with his hypotheses one could expect change such as if the economic opportunities change.

<b>Thesis Grade</b>	7,5
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Defence Grade	7,6 - B
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Signature – 1 <sup>st</sup> Chair	
Date	18 July 2024
Signature 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair	
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Signature 3 <sup>rd</sup> Chair	
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