Thesis evaluation Jeroen Spieker

Student details:

Name: Jeroen Spieker

Studentnr: 4023528

E-mail: j.spieker@umail.leidenuniv.nl

Programme details

Programme: European Politics and Society

Specialisation:

EC: 30

Evaluators:

First: B. Shaev

E-mail: b.shaev@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Second: J. Grzymski

E-mail: jan.grzymski@uj.edu.pl

Thesis details:

Title: As Strict as Possible: Centre-Right Parties' Approach to Immigration in the Netherlands, France and Belgium

Is the thesis in your assessment free of plagiarism?

Yes to my knowledge the thesis is free of plagiarism

No suspicion of plagiarism.

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

by B. Shaev: it can be made public throught the repository.

Summary assessment/comments

This is a wonderful thesis written at expert level.

Criteria

Knowledge and insight

This is an exemplary thesis investigating the tenures of three ministers/state secretaries in charge of their country's migration and asylum portfolio in Belgium, France and the Netherlands in 2022-2023 as well as how they related to their parliamentary parties. The thesis does an excellent job in framing the topic as a study of center-right parties, builds excellently on existing scholarly literature, including key concepts, and delivers a forceful contribution to literature on migration politics in the contemporary EU.

Assessment: very good   **Weighing:** n/a

Application of knowledge and insight

The thesis explains and delivers a sophisticated three-part methodology that examines, first, the role the three ministers played by employing scholarly concepts of loyalist, ideologue and partisan, second, a content analysis of parliamentary discussions in which the ministers interacted with their parliamentary parties, and third, a multi-part comparison of each of the former two for France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Hence the thesis actually sets itself up for 8 to 9 individual pieces of argumentation, which adds up to an unusually sophisticated research design.

Assessment: very good   **Weighing:** n/a

Reaching conclusions

The empirical sections are extremely tight and well organized, which is necessary for a research design set up to establish 8-9 interrelated yet autonomous set of arguments. The mixture of conceptual application and empirical exploration is very healthy. It would take too long for me to reproduce in condensed form all 8-9 arguments contained in the thesis but suffice it say that they are all expertly performed and tied together well in a larger argumentation that is then tied back to the overarching topical theme on center-right parties in government and migration policy. The sub-section conclusions (re)state the section's arguments with admirable precision and allow the reader to follow each piece of the argumentation closely, which is especially important for a thesis looking to accomplish so many pieces of analysis.

Assessment: very good   **Weighing:** n/a

Communication

The writing is excellent, with the small caveat that you have to write 'that' after someone 'argues', the scholar 'argues that' something happened.

Assessment: very good   **Weighing:** n/a

Learning skills

Jeroen used the advising to excellent effect.

Assessment: very good   **Weighing:** n/a

Formal requirements

Met.

Final assessment

On 14-06-2024 this thesis is graded with a 9

Signatures

B. Shaev