



PROTOCOL – THESIS DEFENCE

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| Student Name | Jeroen Spieker |
| Student Number | 4023528 |
| Study Programme | MA European Politics and Society |
| Study Period | 2022-2024 |
| Thesis Title | As Strict as Possible: Centre-Right Parties' Approach to Immigration in the Netherlands, France and Belgium |

| DEFENCE DETAILS | |
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| Date | 18 July 2024 |
| 1 st Chair – Title, Name, Role | Dr Joost Augusteijn – Chair, MA EPS Programme, Leiden |
| 2 nd Chair – Title, Name, Role | Dr Maxine David – Coordinator, MA EPS Programme, Leiden |
| 3 rd Chair – Title, Name, Role | Dr Marcin Zubek – Coordinator, MA EPS Programme, Jagiellonian |
| Comments from Defence Committee on Student Defence | |

Dr Augusteijn asked: 1) about the contribution to be made by a how question – given the findings why not a what one? The answer was of high quality and focused on the connection both to the literature and the empirics; 2) is there really a good basis for speaking about individuality and how would you know that? The response here was less sure-footed in terms of moving beyond the arguments in the thesis itself to reveal post-thesis submission reflection but was still of a very high quality.

Dr Zubek (online) – centre-right – this was under-conceptualised. What do you mean by centre-right and is this generalisable across Europe, is it not a western European concept? The student acknowledged the western European centrality but defended it too through reference to the Polish party system. Generally, the defence of the student was weakest here.

Dr David – can you talk through this idea of a centre-right or any kind of centrist party as monolithic? The student delivered a good answer, correcting his own language in terms of using “monolithic” and talked through the underpinning idea well in a manner more consistent with the nuance evident elsewhere in this thesis and defence.

Dr David – you spoke of limitations but what have you missed out? A good discussion followed about temporal limitations – after some prompting.

Throughout the defence, the student demonstrated a very comprehensive and deep reading of related literature. Often, the answers moved beyond the thesis and at all times they were

thoughtful and the student generally engaged well with the defence, never tipping into a defensive stance.

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| Thesis Grade | 9.0 - A |
| Defence Grade | 8.5 - A |

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| Signature – 1st Chair |  |
| Date | 18 July 2024 |
| Signature 2nd Chair |  |
| Date | 18 July 2024 |
| Signature 3rd Chair |  |
| Date | 18 July 2024 |