



Universiteit  
Leiden

# Thesis evaluation Yan Yip

## Student details:

**Name:** Yan Yip

**Studentnr:** 4017269

**E-mail:** y.y.yip@umail.leidenuniv.nl

## Programme details

**Programme:** European Politics and Society

**Specialisation:**

**EC:** 30

## Evaluators:

**First:** Dr. Salvador Santino Regilme

**E-mail:** s.s.regilme@hum.leidenuniv.nl

**Second:** J.C.Trivino-Salazar

**E-mail:** juancarlos.trivino@upf.edu

## Thesis details:

**Title:** Eroding Human Rights in Hong Kong: The National Security Law, EU Responses, and the Evolving Dynamics of EU-China Relations

Is the thesis in your assessment free of plagiarism?

Yes to my knowledge the thesis is free of plagiarism

The thesis appears to be free of plagiarism.

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

by Dr. Salvador Santino Regilme: it can be made public through the repository.

# Summary assessment/comments

The thesis examines the impact of the National Security Law on human rights and democratic processes in Hong Kong since its enactment in 2020. It also explores the EU's response to human rights violations in Hong Kong and its implications for EU-China relations. The research problem is well-discussed in the context of relevant scholarly literature, with the thesis demonstrating originality due to its timely topic. However, the research discussion could have benefited from emphasizing the broader theoretical implications for International Relations. The thesis presents a solid methods section with a critical analysis of a wide range of sources and key concepts, although the case selection discussion could have been more compelling. The core argument of the thesis is that the NSL has significantly eroded human rights and transformed Hong Kong's political and legal landscape. While the thesis employs several theoretical perspectives, it could have provided a more nuanced discussion and a cohesive explanatory thread to bind these perspectives together in a unified argument appropriate for the research question. The research questions have been fully answered with a clear argument based on relevant and convincing evidence.

## Criteria

### Knowledge and insight

The thesis investigates how has the implementation of the National Security Law in Hong Kong impacted human rights and democratic processes from its enactment in 2020 to the present (2024). The analysis also inquires into how the EU responded to human rights abuses in Hong Kong and the implications for EU-China relations. The research problem is clearly and extensively discussed in consideration of a wide range of existing scholarly literature. The thesis also demonstrated originality based on the timeliness of the topic. The research discussion, however, could have been improved by underscoring the broader contributions of the analysis to International Relations theoretical debates. In sum, however, the articulation of the problem in conversation with the scholarly literature is very good.

**Assessment:** very good

**Weighing:** n/a

### Application of knowledge and insight

The thesis has a good methods section, and it demonstrated a critical analysis of a wide range of materials and sources. The key concepts were sufficiently discussed, and a wide range of secondary sources. The thesis was able to embed the analysis with a wide range of scholarly debates in International Relations and comparative politics. The discussion of about case selection could have been discussed in a more compelling manner.

**Assessment:** good

**Weighing:** n/a

### Reaching conclusions

The core argument of the thesis states that the imposition of the NSL has significantly eroded human rights and fundamentally altered the territory's political and legal landscapes. The use of several strands of theoretical perspectives (human rights, securitization, and authoritarianism, constructivism, realism) is interesting, although a more nuanced discussion in this regard could have been made. There was a lack of cohesive explanatory thread that effectively binds together all these theoretical perspectives into a unitary mid-range argument appropriate for a research question. The relevance, however, of each theory to the analysis is sufficiently explained.

**Assessment:** good

**Weighing:** n/a

## Communication

The thesis is written in clear and understandable academic English. The structure and layout of the thesis are excellent, and the thesis demonstrated correct referencing practices.

**Assessment:** very good

**Weighing:** n/a

## Learning skills

The student demonstrated a high degree of analytic independence and receptiveness to feedback.

**Assessment:** good

**Weighing:** n/a

## Formal requirements

The thesis met the formal requirements .

## Final assessment

On 14-06-2024 this thesis is graded with a 7.9

# Signatures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvador Santino Regilme". The signature is written in a cursive style with some overlapping strokes.

Dr. Salvador Santino Regilme