Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bc. Adam Voldřich,

Title: Automating Compliance: The role of Machine Learning in International Prohibition Regimes

Programme/year: NP_BSSVS, 23/24

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/~~external assessor~~): Dr. Petr Spelda

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	15
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	35
Total		*80*	58
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	2
	Formal requirements	**5**	2
Total		*20*	14
TOTAL		*100*	72

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Evaluation

Major criteria:

The dissertation investigates whether machine learning models could help to surveil states' adherence to various prohibition regimes. Somewhat peculiarly, it starts with a methodology section, which, however, does not feature content on methodology. Literature review lacks focus and is too broad and, thus, fails to identify key concepts necessary for informing the analysis. That being said, the discussion on prohibition regimes is solid, however, does not serve the research design well. Limits of machine learning models are surveyed appropriately.

The empirical analysis is interesting and, in many ways, unique. Unfortunately, it does not feel robust enough due to conceptual and also, partially, methodological reasons. This could have been a great dissertation if the research design/framework was not rushed. Also, there is no conclusion.

Minor criteria:

Based on the anti-plagiarism software checks, it is formally confirmed that the submitted thesis is original and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, does not, in an ethically unacceptable manner, draw from the works of other authors.

There are style issues (e.g., wrong autocorrects).

Overall evaluation:

The original idea was good and there are some strong moments in the empirical analysis. However, a lot of the dissertation's value is unnecessarily detracted by rushed, incomplete, and, unfortunately, somewhat inconsistent research design. Despite these issues, I recommend the dissertation for defence.

Suggested grade: C

Signature