



Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: Bc. Aldi Shehu
Student's ID: 45674403

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: International Economic and Political Studies with specialisation in International Politics

Study ID: 795875

Title of the thesis: The Impact of Political Culture on the Development of Countries: In Search of a Theory
Thesis department: Department of Political Science (23-KP)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Janusz Salamon, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): Mgr. Jakub Franěk, Ph.D.
Date of defence: 18.09.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of the examination: [in person] The student began the thesis defence using a PowerPoint presentation aid, introducing the research design and the mixed-method choice while highlighting his own critiques during the interview process. He graphically illustrated the findings and the challenges of choosing Albania as a case study. He then talked about the contribution to the discourse and what he believes expands the understanding of Rawl's theory of political culture and development. The student concluded with the key takeaways, limitations, and venues for future research while mentioning his hope of the study being useful to policymakers. In formal terms, the defence fluctuated between presenting and reading from the screen as the student was sitting during the defence; however, the student had eye contact with the examination board when presenting his arguments.

CU Committee: Dr. Franěk highlights the study's ambition and the shortcomings of promising quantitative analysis when it is not present. However, Dr. Franěk also mentions that political culture is focused on democratic cultures while neglecting the political culture in non-democratic scenarios, which could have been interesting to approach.

The student elaborates on the shortcomings and why he focused on political culture and development.

Dr Franěk also questions the interviewee's choice in relation to the theoretical discussion around political culture in Albania. He mentions that the interviewees seem not to be knowledgeable in the term, missing an opportunity to engage in the theoretical discussion

proposed in the study.

Dr Franěk wonders if the examples of PR China and South Korea could actually debunk the student hypothesis of the relationship between political culture and development. The student should have considered these examples to rethink the hypothesis in case there is some link missing to what he is trying to explain.

The student explains the metrics (trust, participation, efficacy) he used to measure political culture and its application in Albania.

Dr Baxa asks about the methodological approach and how he selected the respondents:

The student mentions that he used (50) interviews among selected respondents.

Dr Baxa inquires into the questions and how were they elaborated, if they followed a methodology.

Dr Hájek concludes highlighting that even if the work is ambitious and it aims to become a doctoral dissertation, it should stand alone at this stage.

No further questions from the committee.

Result of defence:	good (E)	
Chair of the board:	Hájek Lukáš, Mgr., M.A., Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Baxa Jaromír, PhDr., Ph.D. (present)
	Franěk Jakub, Mgr., Ph.D. (present)