

This thesis analysed the social unrest in Chile that erupted in October 2019. The aim was to analyse how President Sebastián Piñera tried to securitise the protests of autumn 2019 and whether he succeeded. To do so, I used the theory of securitisation first formulated by Copenhagen School authors Barry Buzan, Ole Wæver and Jaap de Wilde. I examined the President's speeches using discursive analysis. Methodologically, I used a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative part involved the analysis of primary and secondary sources, including presidential statements, media reports and social media posts. The quantitative analysis relied on MAXQDA software to identify the most frequent word combinations in presidential speeches. A thorough analysis and interpretation of these speeches makes it clear that the president attempted to securitize the fall 2019 protests. He tried to present them as an existential threat to Chilean society that could only be resolved using extraordinary measures. The audience did not accept his discourse, the protesters continued to grow in number and eventually President Piñera had to discount his conditions and demands. For the reasons mentioned above, it should be clear that this was not a successful securitisation in this case, only a securitisation move.