



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Manvi Krishnamurthy

Title: Tracing the discreet underworld. The terrorism nexus in India and what it means for the 21st century Indian security

Programme/year: International Security Studies/2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Aliaksei Kazharski

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	23
<i>Total</i>		80	53
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	73



Evaluation

Major criteria:

Minor criteria:

Assessment of plagiarism: I found no evidence of plagiarism in the thesis.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis explores the important topic of the connections between terrorist activity and organized crime groups focusing on the Mumbai underworld. The author takes inspiration in three conceptual frameworks the embeddedness theory, the social network theory and the social capital theory. The application of these frameworks is explained in the respective chapters, showing how, for example, social embeddedness facilitates both organized crime and terrorist activity and makes it more difficult for the law enforcement agencies to eradicate them. Overall, the text is visibly tilted towards empirical description and, at times, may read more like an exciting novel than a theoretically grounded academic discussion. Nevertheless, it is very rich in empirical detail and demonstrates the author's dedication to the subject and a significant time investment on her side to which I also stand witness as a supervisor. The text provides us with an enriching look inside the nefarious world of India's mafia gangs and the complex dynamics between organized crime, terrorist activity, and by virtue of the ever-present context of the Indian-Pakistani relations, their links to regional security. At times, however, it certainly seems that the text could be easier to follow if more contextualization and analytical summary was provided for each chapter. This concerns, above all, those readers who are like myself non-experts on Indian and regional politics. This lack of proper analytical digestion of the rich empirics has weakened the otherwise promising thesis somewhat.

It should also be noted that the writing and researching of the thesis has faced certain limitations due to concerns about the personal security of the author who is planning to return to India.



**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
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Suggested grade:

“C” (73)

Signature: