

Name of the student:	William Francois Jean Tanguy Malaterre
Title of the thesis:	ISI Brides or Failed Citizens: A Comparative Media Frame Analysis of ISIS Female Members Amidst Citizenship Deprivation Debates in France and the United Kingdom.
Reviewer:	Javier Arregui

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

This thesis analyses how the citizenship of ISIS female fighters is framed across a number of French and British media actors. The focus is on who is considered a citizen, why and the extent to which citizenship could be (or not) maintained. Thus, the thesis tries to unpack the ideas and understanding there is behind the allegory 'jihadi bride' created by the British media. The thesis shows in a rather nice way that far from neutral, this allegory and other related narratives reveal a very particular view of Muslim women. I believe the thesis is dealing with a very important issue, particularly given the current importance not only of the growing sensitivity of European countries towards non-European immigration but also because of the relevance of the narratives of media actors, especially on these types of issues that are so sensitive for public opinion in EU member states. In other words, this thesis increases our understanding in a rather systematic and substantive way of a policy issue which is highly relevant and salient in European Politics.

The thesis poses two research questions, that although at first glance they seem to be two questions of a merely descriptive nature, in reality the way in which they have been developed in the thesis have an explanatory nature to the extent that they are very well rooted in theory. This is undoubtedly one of the strengths of this thesis. Not only are there two substantive research questions from both a political and academic perspective, but also the framing of theories developed in the thesis is excellent for understanding and explaining in detail what lies behind the narratives of ISIS female members.

The main objective of the thesis is to carry out a comparative analysis of the media frameworks dealing with these issues in France and the United Kingdom. This comparative analysis is justified insofar as the narratives developed by different media are nothing other than a series of representations and normative discourses on the same concept of citizenship. This has or may have direct implications on the citizenship policies implemented in these states respectively or even in other EU member states. The objective is carried out quite successfully throughout the thesis due both to the presentation of an excellent theoretical framework and to a brilliant analytical capacity.

The literature review is simply impressive. This is so because the thesis dissects in great detail the best literature in each and every one of the building blocks that are relevant to be able to answer the research questions in a complete and substantive way. These building blocks are the following: the relationship between terrorism and citizenship, the theories related to citizen deprivation, the evolution of the liberal conceptions of citizenship, the emergence of the idea of 'light' citizenship, the relationship between

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The analysis treats the media framed constructed around ISIS female fighters as dependent variable. I believe this is right insofar this is the best way to visualize the evolution of the concept of citizenship itself based on the political interests and/or circumstances that may emerge at a given time. Thus, the allegory of the 'jihadi bride' media frame is unpacked in order to identify the factors, concepts and models which may affect these women's relation to citizenship deprivation.

The theoretical framework based on the literature is also quite compelling in that it identifies different conceptions of citizenship based on both individual interests and the interests of the state that grants such citizenship. The theoretical framework developed on media representation and framing theory is also quite convincing. Perhaps the only doubt that arises here is whether it would not have been better to formulate hypotheses to better envision how the different conceptualizations of citizenship are better integrated with the way in which the media represents ISIS female members and the framing theory they use.

The research design is also good enough for a master thesis insofar it studies in a systematic way six media actors (3 in France and 3 in the UK) of different ideological orientation. This is relevant in order to verify to what extent there is consensus or not on the concept of citizenship to be implemented in the case of ISIS female members. Perhaps what I have missed is a more extensive explanation of why only newspapers have been chosen. Certainly, media cultures vary between different EU countries. In some countries the media culture of newspapers is very important, in others it may be the media culture of social networks, or television, etc. In any case, a small explanation of the extent to which the chosen media represent an important culture in each of the two selected countries would have provided more consistency and credibility to the analysis carried out. In any case, the selection of newspapers or written media is very well justified and they clearly represent important media cultures in the two selected countries. Furthermore, I think that the operationalisation of the different categories of citizenship is very powerful in analytical terms.

The analysis is implemented in a systematic way according to the chosen theoretical framework. It is also very well executed and also manages to shed light on the variables that influence the framing of the different media, of course when this is the case, because there are cases in which there is a more heterogeneous framing. The most important thing is that the analysis provides important insights to understand the existence of a certain ideological battle that is taking place at this moment in the concept of citizenship.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The conclusions, like the rest of the thesis, are very well constructed. This is so to the extent that the thesis not only brings the main findings of the analysis but also compares them with the theories previously presented in the thesis. As a consequence, the author

three very critical implications (with clear political effects) that are very well constructed and supported with empirical evidence.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The thesis is nicely written and uses scholarly language.

The author does not use footnotes. This would probably have enriched a text that is already quite rich.

All citations are included within the main text.

The style is consistent across the paper.

The author has not provided an Appendix with supplementary information about the codification of the articles analysed and/or other additional information about this process.

The rest of the formal aspects of the thesis are brilliantly presented and developed.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The thesis has strong points:

- Substantive research question (for academic and political purposes)
- Really good literature review
- Very good development of the theory and conceptual framework
- Nice research design and analysis
- Very good conclusions (including relevant implications of the findings).

Weaker points:

- There is room to better explain the relevance of print media culture in France and the UK when it comes to inserting it within other media cultures in these countries (as well as its possible impact on policy-making in these countries).
- More information about the codification of the selected articles analysed would have provided a richer understanding about the research design.

Grade (A-F):	9,4 (A)
Date:	Signature:
20/09/2024	

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	Range	%	Score	%	Range	%	Range	%
A (91-100)	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10	5,5 %
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';

Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';

Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';

Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';

Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';

Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.