

MASTER'S THESIS REPORT
International Economic and Political Studies (IEPS)
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Brexit's Impact on the United Kingdom's Service Specializations in the EU-UK Value-Added Trade Network
Student's name:	Taylor Del Brocco
Reviewer's name:	Michal Paulus

Criteria	Maximum	Points
Contribution and argument (originality, justifiable research question and hypotheses, argumentation)	25	23
Theoretical framework (situating research into the existing knowledge)	25	24
Methodology (methods and data relevant to the research question and appropriately used)	20	20
Referencing to sources	15	15
Formal aspects (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	10	9
Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	5
Total	100	96

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score (if the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review):

The text of the author is original. The identified parts of the text by the anti-plagiarism software are mostly citations or commonly used phrases.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1,800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2,500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

The author analyses the impact of the exit of the United Kingdom from the EU on the EU-UK value network and also on its specialized sectors in high-value added economic activities. The key hypothesis of the paper is that UK's specialization in "*high value-added services afforded increased resiliency against impacts of Brexit in the position of its service sectors in the EU-UK value network*". The thesis utilizes network analysis and input-output tables to investigate its research question.

The thesis is structured in logical and transparent manner. First two chapters serve as an introduction, chapter 3 offers extensive literature review covering methodological topics (input output tables, research on value-added measures, sector specialization, network analysis) and empirical research on Brexit and participation of the United Kingdom in the global value chains. Chapter 4 describes author's methodology summarizing used input output data (OECD and FIGARO databases) and network analysis.

Results are presented in the chapter 5 and discussed in the chapter 6. I have only minor comments to those chapter

- I recommend to increase the font size of the graph labels (e.g. Figure 4).

- Also, it would help to create a table (at least in the appendix) with the list of all the sectors included in the Figure 5.
- Figure 8 needs higher resolution because the smaller nodes are unreadable even after scrolling.

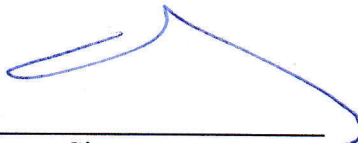
The thesis is well written and clearly structured. The literature review is extensive, the empirical results are presented and discussed also in detail. I have no major critical remark therefore I propose grade A.

Proposed grade: A

Suggested questions for the defence:

- Which I/O dataset find you more reliable? OECD ICIO or FIRAGO?
- You stated that the absolute values in the results differed between OECD ICIO and FIGARO databases. Do you find those results significant? What are the implications of those differences for the utilization of those databases according to your opinion and experience with those datasets?
- What is your opinion on Brexit (pros and cons for the UK) after writing the thesis? Has the work on the paper changed your opinion on this topic?

I recommend the thesis for the final defence.



Signature

Overall grading scheme at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University:

Total Points	Grade	Quality standard
91–100	A	= outstanding (high honour)
81–90	B	= superior (honour)
71–80	C	= good
61–70	D	= satisfactory
51–60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0–50	F	= failing, the thesis is not recommended for defence