

MASTER THESIS ASSESSMENT

Name of Student: Lauren K Rogers

Thesis Title: (Re)Writing History: How Germany and France Create and Project EU Narratives Abroad

University of the 1st semester: Uppsala Universitet

University of the 2nd semester: Palacký University Olomouc

Name of Supervisor / University: Martin Petlach / Palacký University

In this report, please consider the following, by answering the following questions. Please add a short explanation instead of simply answering 'yes', 'no' or 'partly':

1) Content: Problem statement, method and theory:

a) Is the topic of the thesis clearly presented and motivated?

The researched sphere is being introduced and explained gradually and the author bears in mind the importance of surrounding world issues when referring to them with sundry academic and journalistic sources as well.

b) Are the aims and objectives of the thesis clearly identified and explained?

The introductory section is divided into four subchapters in which the author elucidated the significance of research in this field and the organisational structure, previous research, and possible limitations were clarified accordingly.

c) Is there a well formulated problem statement and is it of sufficient complexity for an MA level? Briefly explain?

Ms Rogers has proved and demonstrated ample skills to conduct an independent research enquiry with primary and secondary sources whilst analysing quite a current and relevant matter. Notwithstanding the topicality, the author has employed a confident approach towards narratives and thus succeeded to investigate it rigorously.

d) Has the student convincingly explained the relevance of the research?

As previously stated, the text was compounded of these explanations, and furthermore, there are suitable comparative politics attempts to back the author's statements.

e) Has a suitable methodology and theoretical frame been taken to solve the stated problems?

The thesis shall be praised for its brilliant effort to examine the EU not only from a qualitative angle, but also a quantitative perspective when using the social media which may be rather knotty, but it is, however, becoming indispensable nowadays.

f) In case where empirical research has been conducted: is there a suitable research design and has the research been conducted adequately?

The elaborated methodology is beyond reproach for an MA thesis.

g) Does the conclusion provide convincing answers/proof to the initial questions/hypotheses?

It is necessary to recognise the author's critical attitude towards the topic when she approached the diplomatic missions of France and Germany. The evidence she has provided regarding the national identity narratives and its power in comparison with the CFSP may be eventually useful for a comparative study of all the EU states.

Nevertheless, the number of hypotheses is too exaggerated and for the purposes of any other future dissertation, it shall be inevitable to reduce them as much as possible. Otherwise focusing on the core of research matter would not be realisable.

h) Does the research constitute a contribution to knowledge in this field or domain?

Ms Rogers has merged two unheeded areas of social science, diplomatic studies and its impact on the contemporary European Union and vice versa. Further research in this sphere may be hailed too, I suppose, since the EU is being examined mostly in a different manner and therefore this type of research may emerge a bit more in the forthcoming era.

2) Structure:

a) Is the thesis coherently structured in chapters and sections?

The thesis was sectioned appropriately so that the chapters and its subchapters are jolly well balanced and thus any reader may find reading this thesis feasible.

b) Are concepts clearly introduced and explained, and critically and consistently applied?

Apart from putting the narratives in the broad context, Ms Rogers clarifies her cases of Germany and France and approaches them critically to take into account the dissimilarities and she appraises them in the hypotheses then. Moreover, the thesis encompasses a chapter of discussions providing a further reflection on the narratives and its consequences.

3) Sources (primary and secondary):

a) Has (enough) relevant (primary and secondary) literature been adequately interpreted and integrated into the thesis?

Ms Rogers has showed her ability to use the sources adequately and interpret them. For her upcoming research, however, I would highly recommend relying on a wider range of theorists and not to be overly and conspicuously dependent on one scholar's work (as A Miskimmon in this instance).

b) Is the bibliography/list of references complete and accurate?

The list is complete and does not lack of any information.

4) Stylistics:

a) Is the use of language (English) acceptable and of the required standard (i.e. no spelling mistakes and typos, range of vocabulary, grammar)?

The author, as a native speaker, has no difficulty using English, indeed, albeit the persistence of some oversimplifying journalistic terms. In a positive way, the stylistics and expressing of Ms Rogers had improved substantially in the course of writing.

b) Are references in the text given in a coherent and consistent manner (either in-text or as footnotes)?

It is, and in addition, it has been done in an extensive and satisfactory amount.

5) Format:

a) How is the thesis presented (i.e. consistency in lay-out, choice of fonts, headings, tables and graphs)?

The thesis shall be appreciated for its consistent approach and proper execution. All the tables in the thesis were delivered entirely by the author in order of conducting the quantitative research.

b) Does the thesis contain all required elements (title page, declaration, table of contents, bibliography, etc.)

All the above-mentioned tasks were fulfilled satisfactorily.

6) Quality of writing process:

a) To what degree has the student been able to work independently?

Ms Rogers was able to deliver the thesis completely independently, but the thesis content and methodology had been discussed thoroughly via email, online, and tête-à-tête though.

b) Have recommended revisions been executed to a satisfying degree?

The reciprocal communication with Ms Rogers was smooth. The advice and recommendations were followed, even though some had to be omitted subsequently (e.g. nominal level of research), doing so mostly due to the thesis extent.

c) Any other relevant comments (e.g on planning and commitment of the student).

Ms Rogers was diligent and devoted to deliver a good-quality thesis; to my delight, she's been a student it is a pleasure to cooperate with.

7) Possible questions for thesis defence (only if this thesis is to be defended Orally):

After the extensive research you have conducted on the JCPO and French / German diplomatic missions, are you able to specify whether there are any areas causing disputes between these two European states regarding the international and/or internal affairs?

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(National) Grade: A

Suggestion for corresponding converted grade according to the other university's (national) grading scheme: A

Date and place: *Putrajaya, 19 July 2018*

Signature: *Martin Petlach*