



Annex One: Euroculture Thesis Assessment Form

Name of Student: Mathilde Brunet

Thesis Title: *A 'social Europe' for workers? Framing analysis of the posted work debate in the Council*

Home University: University of Olomouc

Host University: Uppsala University

Name of Supervisor: Andreaz Wasniowski

1) Content: Problem statement, method and theory:

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

Yes. The main topic is presented in the first pages of the thesis. It is a rather complex topic, and the reader needs to have some background knowledge in order to understand it. However, Brunet provides the necessary information before she presents the main research questions.

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

Yes. This is presented under its own subheading in the introduction. The reader is provided with the necessary background information, and the overall topic is elucidated in three clearly stated research questions.

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

Yes. The thesis deals with a complex topic that requires a lot of background knowledge and can be addressed from different perspectives. To answer the research questions, different agents must be studied and related to each other in the analysis. The study is conducted on empirical material and uses both quantitative and qualitative methods. It also utilizes a theoretical apparatus and is somewhat creative in how it adopts to "negotiations analysis".

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

The study is relevant from both an academic and a more societal perspective. The main topic relates to a contemporary political issue of importance. In several aspects, the relevance of the study is not limited to the topic at hand; for instance, the study deals with complex political negotiations.

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

Theory and methodology are explicitly discussed within the thesis. The main theoretical concept is "framing", a concept mainly developed within communications studies but, in this thesis, applied to political negotiations. By

using this approach, weight is given to contextual aspects, for instance, to the background of how and why the negotiating parties are framing/understanding the discussed issue. The thesis also provides a theoretical discussion on different types of frames. My general impression is that the chosen theoretical approach works well, especially since it is integrated and used within the analysis.

In addition to the theoretical discussion, Brunet includes an extensive chapter on methodology. The empirical material is presented and discussed, after which both qualitative and quantitative methods are introduced. The methods are also related to the theoretical concepts.

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

The empirical material comprises mainly the analyzed negotiations. How this material is collected and transcribed is described adequately within the thesis.

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

Yes and no. The thesis does not have an explicit hypothesis; however, an initiated reader can probably make reasonable assumptions about the results. The research questions are answered.

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

Yes. In many ways, I think the thesis provides interesting insights. It is also innovative in how the topic is studied.

2) **Structure:**

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

Yes. It is easy to navigate within the thesis, and the chapters cover the information that the reader expects to find based on the headings. As I stated above, the issue is rather complex, and Brunet does a good job of guiding the reader through it. I also find both the arguments and analyses clear and transparent.

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

Yes. One of the strengths of the thesis is that the theories, concepts and methodologies that are discussed are actually used within the analysis. The thesis forms a whole where the parts are connected.

3) **Sources** (primary and secondary):

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

Yes. The primary sources are both relevant and sufficient. It is always possible to point to alternative secondary sources, but I think Brunet has made good choices and has demonstrated that she is familiar with the relevant research.

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

Yes. Several minor inconsistencies are found, as well as a few formalities that deviate from the "standard". However, I don't think this diminishes the thesis, and as a reader, I had no problem locating the sources or checking references.

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)?

Yes.

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

Yes (see 3b).

5) Format:

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

The thesis is presented in good way.

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

Yes.

6) Quality of writing process:

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

Brunet has had two supervisors. From my perspective, she has been working independently and in a professional manner.

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

Yes.

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

Brunet has written a very good thesis on a complex issue. She has independently formulated interesting research questions, located relevant material, and identified theories and methods to help her answer the questions. Even though the topic is complex, she has provided the reader with the necessary background information, and the analyses are transparent and reasonable.

I have no doubt that Brunet is a capable researcher who has the ability to independently formulate and answer complex research questions.

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

(National) Grade:

Swedish: VG

ECTS: A

Date and place:

15/8 2018, Uppsala

Signature: _____

Andreaz Wasniowski