

## MASTER THESIS REVIEW

**Author:** Romina Pamela Palacios Hidalgo  
**Thesis:** National identity in the discourse of nationalist and populist parties in Europe: the dismantlement of multiple belonging and its social and political implications in terms of exclusion and development  
**Reviewer:** Lenka Dušková

### Content

*The theoretical part of the thesis as well as the methodological part is well elaborated making way for the significant amount of primary data analysis through which the author gradually answered her research questions. The author well explains the relevant concepts (such as concept of multiple belonging, etc.) that are used to frame the research. The goal, specific objectives of the thesis, and the research questions are clearly and explicitly stated.*

*The thesis has a logical structure and it is coherent, leading the reader to the enhancement of his/her knowledge with respect to the first two specific objectives of the thesis, i.e. systematically uncovering the elements through which the national identity is constructed in/through the discourses of the selected populist leaders and thus shedding more light on the processes of dismantlement of multiple belonging. However, there is an observable dis-balance between the depth and quality of the first five chapters and the chapter 6, which stays rather superficial and does not provide a thorough analysis of the coherence resp. divergence of the discourses on identity of the selected two right wing popular figures in relation to the international development principles and commitments. In this part of the thesis (i.e. answering to the specific objective number 3), the author with her work aspired to “address the existing gap in the literature by identifying the contradictions between the internationally agreed principles [commitment to development] and the discourse on identity and belonging of the right wing populist” (p. 5), however, this part of the thesis stays rather brief and simplistic. On the other hand it provides an inspiration for the consecutive potential research that would build on the findings from the first five chapters and would allow for the re-application of the results of the completed analysis of collected primary data.*

*The student well explains the choice of the two selected case studies, i.e. the political leaders from two different regions of Europe Matteo Salvini and Viktor Orban. She also well rationalizes the time frame for the data collection. The author of the thesis describes the corpus analyzed, although the character of sources of the texts (i.e. public statements) to be analyzed for each of the public figures differs significantly. **During the defense, could you please explain in more detail how and why did you make the choice of selecting these types of texts for each of the public figures, since they differ in character in each of the cases? Does it then allow for comparison between the two public figures?***

### Literature and references

*The author of the thesis works with relevant resources of information which are cited in a correct way.*

### Formal requirements

*The stylistic and grammar level of the thesis goes in line with the general standards of an academic text. The presented work is clear and reads well.*

*The tables are comprehensible and placed correctly in the text helping the reader to understand the main body of the text and thus certainly represent the value added to the thesis.*

## Topics for discussion

*See above (question in the section Content).*

*Most of the supervisor's questions have been answered already during the process of elaboration of the thesis and the outcomes of the discussions have been inbuilt into the thesis.*

*Still, just out of interest: on p. 11 author of the thesis states that she is going to use the 3 main documents for the analysis related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> specific objective: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Declaration to the Right to Development and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Could you comment on the choice of the Declaration to the Right to Development and its "universal" recognition as the guideline for development?*

## Overall evaluation and proposed grade

*In line with the belief that the master thesis is a result of gradual process of learning as well as a proof of independent analytical skills of the student, I recommend the thesis for defense with the grade B, despite of the critical remarks stated above. During the consultations we have regularly discussed and re-discussed the focus and relevant methodological approach to the studied topic and it can be stated that the student has gradually significantly improved on the research design and also explicitly rationalized the choices made during the research process as well as recognized and stated the limitations of the presented work.*

*It also needs to be mentioned that Romina Pamela has been elaborating her thesis during her internship in a Consortium partner organization ALDA, so there is a hope that the thesis and its findings may find its implication in practice, contributing to the work of ALDA.*

I do recommend the thesis for defense with grade B.

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

**Signature:**