

# Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2017/2018**

Master Thesis Topic: **Changing Foreign Policy of the JDP in the Context of Turkish National Identity**

Author's name: **Ipek Kancaal**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Jan Martin Rolenc, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Aneta Hlavsová, BA**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	1
2.	Logical structure	1
3.	Using of literature, citations	1
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	1
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	1
8.	Language and stylistics	2

## Comments and Questions:

The thesis traces the development and changes of the Turkish JDP's foreign policy linked to Turkish national identities. The author rightly implements Hermann's (1990) foreign policy change model and stages, connects them to the JDP's foreign policy decisions and shifts, and the Turkish identities. The result is a complex and complete picture of change, which – as the author explains – has not yet been published. In that respect, her thesis is ambitious and original.

Moreover, the thesis draws on numerous sources, both primary and academic, of high quality and relevance. It has a clear, logical structure. There are almost no formal problems.

However, the status of constructivism is not clear enough or it is not satisfactorily explained (apart from the very general claims that constructivism deals with identities and change). Also it is not evident enough if and how the method of qualitative content analysis was applied. What kind of content and how was it analyzed? Finally, there are some minor issues in terms of language, grammar, and style.

Overall, the thesis meets all substantial requirements by the Faculty; therefore, I recommend it for defence and suggest to grade it "excellent".

Questions for defence: 1) How would an "international orientation change" look like in the current Turkish foreign policy context? 2) What are the benefits of the Turkish membership in NATO and closer cooperation with the West (if there are any)?

**Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.**

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 19/07/2018

**Ing. Jan Martin Rolenc, Ph.D.**  
Academic Consultant