

# Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2018/2019**

Master Thesis Topic: **China in Africa – Game Changer from the African Perspective?**

Author's name: **Mfon-Obong Monday David**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Jeremy Alan Garlick, M.A., Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. PhDr. Radka Havlová, Ph.D.**

	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	1

## Comments and Questions:

The thesis is an in-depth examination of China's involvement in Africa. The author demonstrates an ability to evaluate complex datasets proficiently and to draw informed conclusions incorporating a wide range of information. The thesis is logically structured, progressing through an initial part clearly explaining the background to China's foreign policy interests before analysing China's involvement in Africa and then illustrating it by the use of detailed case studies of three African countries. The thesis is rich and informative, in addition to demonstrating an excellent understanding of the different facets of China's approach to Africa: political, economic and cultural.

Citations and literature are used well in support of the analysis. The language, despite quite frequent grammatical errors, is rich and expresses the ideas in clear, flowing sentences and paragraphs. The author often uses bullet points to summarise information in an effective manner. Graphs, illustrations and tables are also effectively used to present information about investments and other data.

The author states on page 6 that he will use mixed methods to analyse the data. This would be OK, but the reader is left with a feeling at the end of the thesis that the analysis is mainly interpretative/qualitative. This approach is satisfactory, but there is not really a structured use of quantitative methods. The use of case studies is effective and interesting, but the connections between the three case studies could have been drawn out in more depth. Similarly, the conclusion is quite short and would have benefited from returning to the research questions and outlining in more detail the extent to which they had been answered.

Overall, despite some shortcomings concerning methods and the conclusion, the thesis demonstrates a very good analytical approach based on in-depth use of empirical data. In my view it is an accomplished piece of work which merits the grade of 'excellent'.

Q1: Your conclusion seems to suggest that China's involvement in Africa is mostly positive. On the negative side, to what extent are the criticisms of China's investments in Africa as 'debt-trap diplomacy' correct? Q2: Given that your case studies reveal the situation regarding Chinese involvement to be rather different in Nigeria and Kenya, can you explain in more detail why these differences pertain in these two cases?

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

Suggested Grade:     **1**

Date: 20/08/2019

**Jeremy Alan Garlick, M.A., Ph.D.**  
Academic Consultant