

Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2019/2020**

Master Thesis Topic: **The Phenomenon of Euroscepticism – A Comparative Analysis of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic**

Author's name: **Henner Brandes**

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

Opponent: **Mgr. Ing. Kateřina Kočí, 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	1
5.	Depth of analysis	1
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	2
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

The thesis is a comparative examination of the phenomenon of Euroscepticism in Germany and the Czech Republic based primarily on case studies of the main Eurosceptic political parties in each country. The thesis opens with an extensive theoretical discussion which is systematic and thorough. The methodological approach to the case studies is then outlined concisely. The theoretical framing and methodological approach are well integrated, with the theoretical discussion in the first part of the thesis utilised within the case studies.

The thesis is logically structured. The differences between the two cases are drawn out in a very clear manner in a dedicated section after the case studies and summarised in the conclusion.

There is one shortcoming in the analysis which is not addressed by the author: the choice to compare the extreme right wing AfD with the more moderate right of centre ODS is not fully justified, nor are the differences between the parties fully explored. Nevertheless, the analysis, conducted via text analysis and surveys, produces some informative discussion of differences between the forms and consequences of Euroscepticism in the two countries.

The figures and tables might have been better formatted, but this is a minor criticism in the context of the overall quality of the thesis. The work is written in accurate, clear English which contains only occasional errors, and the citation is well managed.

Overall, the thesis is a very proficient piece of work which is definitely value-added and will be of interest to anybody who is seeking answers to the problem of Euroscepticism. As such, I consider this to be a work of high quality and recommend it for the grade '1' (excellent), for which it meets all the criteria.

Questions for defence: (1) Can you justify your assertion that there is a higher level of political education in Germany than the Czech Republic, and draw out the consequences of this for the phenomenon of Euroscepticism?

(2) What are the main differences in the types of Euroscepticism endorsed by the AfD and ODS? What impacts do these differences have on society in each country?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 04/05/2020

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