

## **BACHELOR THESIS EVALUATION: THESIS OPPONENT**

**Thesis topic:** Unveiling the Paradox: Bolsonaro's Openness to Venezuelan Refugees as a Challenge to the Narratives of Right-Wing Populism

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**Opponent:** Kusá Dagmar

**Study program:** Political Science, Liberal Arts

*Evaluation contains objective and critical analysis of a bachelor thesis proposal. Evaluation should be considered by the following criteria:*

Criteria for the evaluation of the final thesis	Max. points	Points given by evaluator
1. Methodological aspect (Logical frame, process of inquiry, topic specification, how realistic are set goals and how adequate are proposed working methods)	10	10
2. Sources of domestic and foreign literature, familiarity with relevant literature	15	14
3. Formatting and style	15	15
4. Scope and proportionality of content	5	5
5. Systematic approach	15	14
6. Evaluation of achieved results	40	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>

**Final evaluation:** 97 **A** (90-100 points), **B** (80-89 points), **C** (70-79 points), **D** (60-69 points), **E** (50-59 points), **Fx** (<49 points)

### **Evaluation, comments, and recommendations:**

This thesis selects a very interesting puzzle for its analysis—the narrative acrobatic performance of the Bolsonaro administration in relation to the Venezuelan refugees, which it viewed favorably despite its ideological background and history of opposing immigration, achieved through the securitization of the left. The thesis presents a clear hypothesis and a suitable methodology to examine it. The study is backed by a wealth of literature. It is clear that the author has an impressive command of the research on the topic, perhaps at the detriment of occasional verbosity. There are tangents that could have been skipped or shortened, especially some of the background information or literature review, but they do not pose a serious shortcoming. The result is that the methodology is thoroughly presented halfway through the thesis—that first half indeed could have been shorter, with more emphasis given to the analysis.

I appreciate that the passages in Slovak language are as stylistically precise as the majority of the text in the English language. A very minor stylistic note: the quotation marks already serve as an indication of the quotation—the quote should not be italicized. Block quotes do not even require quotation marks.

The analysis is qualitative and well illustrates the main argument. However, it is somewhat difficult to tell how pervasive these moves have been overall, since they were limited to Twitter and are not placed in some comparative or quantitative context. It is not a necessity, but it would have been nice to see the “timelapse”—how the language has evolved or gradated, to be able to appreciate the development of the language within the evolving crisis.

**Questions for the author (relevant to the content of the Thesis):**

- 1. Is the selection of Bolsonaro's Twitter account for the discourse analysis representative of his overall statements during the studied period of time? Might we get a slightly different result if looking at official speeches**
- 2. Securitization necessarily focuses on the narrative construction of a threat in order to justify actions and stances. It is correct to focus on one approach, as this thesis does, for the sake of clarity. Thus, within the light of the theory, it prioritizes the securitization moves against specific political objects. However, I wonder**
- 3. Is Bolsonaro's rhetoric against portrayed political enemies similar to other right-wing populist leaders or does anything (besides the somewhat unusual favourable stance towards the migration of the Venezuelan refugees) make him unique?**

In Bratislava, on: \_\_20.5.2024\_\_(date)

Signature of evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_