

Thesis reader review

Author's name: Suarez Salgado Maria Ximena Xavier

Title: Guaidó's and Maduro's Twitter engagement and discourse in Venezuela (2017-2022): a case study in the politics of the internet

In her bachelor's theses, Maria Ximena Xavier Suarez Salgado analyses how Guaidó and Maduro used Twitter to communicate with Venezuelan citizens. In particular, based on the "underlying assumption is that Maduro's pre-existing position of power allowed him to disregard Guaidó and focus on using nationalist rhetoric to criticize foreign adversaries while promoting the stability of his own regime" (p. 11), Maria Ximena Xavier Suarez Salgado focuses on exploration of "the Twitter engagement of Maduro and Guaidó, comparing their approaches to political communication and examining the factors that have contributed to their success (or failure?) on the platform" (p. 12). To achieve the goal, she formulates four hypotheses to be tested. Regarding the structure of the text, first the author provides the reader with the historical context and methodology. Then the analysis follows. First Guaidó's Twitter is analysed within four peaks periods; second National Assembly Twitter production is analysed. The same applies for Maduro's Twitter production. The text is completed with short conclusion.

Communicating via Twitter as well as Twitter itself has been a topic of enormous interest among political scientist, sociologists, and communication experts recently, no matter in what political setting it has been used. The question is then what makes this study relevant and worth reading. This comment is first of all related to the (almost) missing theory. First, if the theory is part of the text, then the author could have found justification for the research. It doesn't mean that the text is not worth reading, it means it lacks theoretical/practical contribution that the text provides in relation to the discussion of the current research related to the region and Twitter analysis. Besides, the question is how the author came up with the hypothesis. Usually if the author is interested in any research problem, she studies what has already been published (theoretical as well as empirical texts) so she can identify what is missing, what the puzzles are, in other words to find the blind spots in the topic. Finally, and that is something I would be especially interested in, is the discussion of the results in relation to the current theoretical and empirical discussions. That is something that makes the research far more interesting, and at the same time shows the qualities of the text as it usually brings important comments and question to be further studied. On the other hand, I have to state, that I highly appreciate the analysis the author made as it shows high quality and skills of the author.

Questions:

- 1) How did you formulate your hypothesis? Are they supported by any theory?

To sum it up, the thesis surpasses the usual standards set by the Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts of the Czech Republic for bachelor theses. I recommend the thesis for defence and suggest a grade B-C.

Date:

Signature: