

РЕЦЕНЗИЯ

на выпускную квалификационную работу обучающегося 2 курса основной образовательной программы МАГИСТРАТУРЫ СПбГУ по направлению «Международные отношения» ШИКУЛИ Анны Александровны на тему: «ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЕ ИЗМЕРЕНИЕ СИРИЙСКОГО КОНФЛИКТА В КОНТЕКСТЕ АМЕРИКАНО-РОССИЙСКОГО ПРОТИВОСТОЯНИЯ НА БЛИЖНЕМ ВОСТОКЕ»

REVIEW

by an official reviewer of the graduate qualification paper (master's thesis) submitted by the second-year student of the "International Relations (in English)" master's program at SPbSU Anna SHIKULYA, titled «THE INFORMATION WARFARE ASPECT OF THE SYRIAN CONFLICT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.S.-RUSSIA POWER STRUGGLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST»

1. Оценка качества работы:

№ п. п.	Критерии оценки (модель магистратуры: проверяемые компетенции)	Баллы оценки: • отлично (5) • хорошо (4) • удовлетворительно (3) • неудовлетворительно (2) ¹	Комментарии к оценке
1.	Актуальность проблематики (АОМ: ОКМ-13, 22; АМ: ОКМ-8,16, ПК-36; ПОМ: ПК-6)	excellent (5)	The pressing relevance of studying the information confrontation over interpretation of the Syrian conflict in international media leaves no doubts from both academic and practical perspectives. The chosen research problem constitutes immediate interest for Russia's foreign policy in the Middle East as well as for assessing editorial approaches to coverage of contemporary armed conflicts.
2.	Научная новизна (АОМ: ОКМ-13, 22; АМ: ОКМ-8,16, ПК-36; ПОМ: ПК-6)	excellent (5)	The major scholarly contribution of the presented paper rests with its unorthodox conceptualization of information warfare within the Syrian conflict as occurring along four major issues – the ones of (1) the causes of war, (2) attitude to Bashar al-Assad, (3) attitude to the opposition, (4) international initiatives for crisis management – and the subsequent calibration of media tools and propaganda strategies employed by Russian and American broadcasters to each of these issues.
3.	Корректность постановки цели, взаимосвязанность цели и задач (АОМ: ОКМ- 9, 13, 32; АМ: ПК-10, 11; ПОМ: ОКМ-12)	excellent (5)	The research question and research objectives are adequately formulated and correct both analytically and operationally. They specify and structure the author's research process.

¹ Выставление оценки «неудовлетворительно» по одному из критериев автоматически означает рекомендацию оценки «неудовлетворительно» за работу в целом. В этом случае рецензент подробно обосновывает собственное мнение в *Комментариях к оценке и п.2. Заключение/рекомендации членам ГЭК.*

4.	<p>Степень разработанности источниковой базы и качество критики источников (АОМ: ПК-17; АМ: ОКМ- 24; ПОМ: ОКМ-18, ПК-13)</p>	excellent (5)	The thesis is based on extensive body of primary sources among which carefully selected texts of media article are of main significance. The quantity of articles from major Russian and American broadcasters that were processed in this research is impressive. Other types of primary sources, namely, official statements by governmental officials are also instrumental in corroborating established media frames to official foreign policy positions adopted by respective governments with respect to the Syrian conflict.
5.	<p>Полнота и разнообразие списка использованной литературы (АОМ: ПК-17; АМ: ОКМ- 24; ПОМ: ОКМ-18, ПК-13)</p>	good (4)	The academic literature on various aspects related to the research agenda that was studied by the author is varied and comprehensive. However, what becomes clear from both the literature review section in the Introduction and a number of thesis chapters, is that the author has mastered the literature on conceptual aspects of the problem (elements and strategies of information warfare, strategic communication, etc.), but not – not to the same extent – the literature on the Syrian conflict itself from Political Science and Middle Eastern studies. As a matter of recommendation, a deeper grasp of Syrian social and political dynamics would have allowed for a more accurate picture in terms of the local context. This is the main critical observation on this research which at the same time does not in any way diminish its scientific value.
6.	<p>Соответствие методов исследования поставленной цели и задачам (АОМ: ОКМ-2; АМ: ОКМ- 10, ПК-26; ПОМ: ОКМ-11, 14)</p>	excellent (5)	The methodology built around the content analysis is a right choice given the research question and research objectives set in the beginning. The author tries to carefully describe her research design in the Introduction – more or less successfully. The application of content analysis in a semi-manual semi-automated way may be evaluated as professional. The amount of work put into this effort must be given a credit.
7.	<p>Соответствие результатов ВКР поставленной цели и задачам (АОМ: ОКМ-1,7, ПК-33; АМ: ОКМ-17, ПК-12, 37; ПОМ: ОКМ-14, ПК-14, 17)</p>	excellent (5)	Both conceptual and empirical results directly correspond to the main research objectives. Results are carefully structured along the 4 issues and include both comparative component and general lessons to be learnt in terms of variety of applicable tools of information warfare. Graphs and charts visualizing some of the data are instrumental in presenting the findings.
8.	<p>Качество оформления текста (АОМ: ОКМ-1; АМ: ОКМ-8; ПОМ: ОКМ-7)</p>	excellent (5)	Text formatting is within the main requirements associated with guidelines for master’s theses and academic writing in general.
Средняя оценка:		4,9 (excellent)	

2. Заключение/рекомендации членам ГЭК: Overall, the presented paper constitutes original, coherent, conceptually and methodologically grounded research on a very hot and relevant problem. Bar a certain lack of contextual literature (the one in Middle Eastern studies), it meets all the main requirements associated with graduate qualification papers at the master' level and deserves to be evaluated with the highest 'excellent' grade, while its author deserves to be granted the master's degree in International Relations.
3. Рекомендованная оценка: excellent

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