

Dissertation topics for study admissions 3rd degree in the International Economic Relations study program at the FMV EU in Bratislava for the academic year 2025/2026

Title:

Critical Discourse Analysis of Slovak and foreign greenfluencers from a political economy perspective

Supervisor:

doc. Dr. Tomáš Imrich Profant

Annotation:

The discursive reproduction in contemporary societies no longer occurs solely through schools, families, media, or political speeches. Social networks have become a significant discursive space, especially for younger generations. The key actors in this space are influencers. Many of them focus on issues such as sustainable development, climate change, and green transition. The aim of the thesis is to analyze discourses related to these topics from a political economy perspective and to compare the discourses of Slovak greenfluencers with those of selected foreign greenfluencers, whose discourses differ from Slovak ones. The goal is thus to analyze the Slovak greenfluencer discourse and suggest alternatives to its direction from abroad. The method of study will be Critical Discourse Analysis.

Thesis objective:

The aim of the thesis is to analyze discourses focusing on sustainable development, climate change, and green transition from a political economy perspective. Additionally, the goal is to compare the discourses of Slovak greenfluencers with those of selected foreign greenfluencers, whose discourses differ from those in Slovakia.

Title:

Water Resources Management in the Context of Economic, Environmental and Legislative Challenges

Supervisor:

doc. Ing. Kristína Baculáková, PhD.

Annotation:

Water is currently one of the most critically stressed resources. Its adequate management in terms of quantity and quality is becoming increasingly important today. The international community faces challenges associated with qualitative characteristics, availability of drinking water, sanitation. On average, approximately 30% of the European population is affected by water stress per year. In developing countries and in areas where the impacts of climate change are most visible, this stress is even more pronounced, and it is clear that it will increase everywhere in the world. Increased demand for environmental quality supports the adoption of more restrictive policies that will respond by introducing new advanced technologies. These

are mainly applied in wastewater treatment, advanced filtration, water saving technology or digital management of water resources.

Thesis objective:

The aim of the work is to identify new options for water resources management. The work focuses on economic, environmental and legislative challenges in their mutual context. Attention is focused on the economic costs of introducing new technologies in relation to potential cost savings from remediation of the impacts of environmental changes. From an environmental perspective, it examines the relationship between the availability of quality water and economic growth. Economic and environmental impacts are closely related to a stable legislative environment supporting the protection of water resources, especially (but not only) internationally shared ones.

Title:

The impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on developing countries

Supervisor:

doc. Ing. Martin Grešš, PhD.

Annotation:

The thesis focuses on the analysis of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its impact on developing countries. The aim is to evaluate the economic, political and social aspects of this initiative and its implementation in developing countries. The thesis focuses on the impact of the BRI on economic growth, employment, infrastructure development and social stability, identifying the challenges and opportunities that the project entails. It analyses the specific cases of the countries involved in the initiative and assesses their long-term implications, including the risks associated with debt and political dependence. The thesis also examines the geopolitical and strategic factors that influence the implementation of the BRI and analyses the relations between China and developing countries under the initiative.

Thesis objective:

To assess the impact of the BRI in terms of the benefits and risks of its implementation and its impact on the economic stability of developing countries.

Title:

The theory of politicization of European integration in the V4 countries

Supervisor:

PhDr. Peter Csányi, PhD.

Annotation:

The thesis traces the transformation of Visegrad cooperation from a tool to promote European integration to a format dominated by national interests and criticism of the EU. The thesis will also examine the impact of politicization on the dynamics of regional cooperation within the V4 and its ability to act as a unified actor in the EU. The theoretical part of the thesis will be devoted to defining the concepts of politicization, populism, Euroscepticism and nationalism in

the context of European integration. It is based on the theory of political discourse and the examination of how the topic of European integration turns into an object of political conflict in the V4 countries. The empirical part of the thesis will focus on statements made by political leaders of the V4 countries, recurrent narratives and their use in political struggles. Particular attention is paid to the so-called "Visegrad effect", i.e. the way in which the V4 countries reinforce Eurosceptic attitudes and weaken the mechanisms of cooperation within the EU.

Thesis objective:

The aim of the dissertation thesis is to develop a theoretical framework for understanding the process of politicization of European integration in Central Europe (specifically in the V4 countries) and to contribute to the broader academic debate on the future of the EU in conditions of increasing political polarization. The results of the analysis can be used to assess the stability and direction of Visegrad cooperation.

Title:

Labour Market in the Context of Economic Growth

Supervisor:

prof. Ing. Mgr. Renáta Pitoňáková, PhD.

Annotation:

The thesis focuses on the issue of the labour market of the selected country(s) in the context of their economic growth. An in-depth labour market analysis and the results of econometric modelling should identify and quantify labour market factors and concurrent changes in the volume and structure of GDP. Subsequently, they should indicate the nature and extent of appropriate measures to mitigate their potential negative effects on the labour market.

Thesis objective:

Modelling the relationship between labour market in selected country/countries and their economic growth.

Title:

Water Stress in Europe: International Political Aspects and Socio-Economic Consequences

Supervisor:

PhDr. Michael Augustín, PhD., MPA

Annotation:

Water stress and water scarcity have become among the key environmental and socio-economic challenges in Europe, with consequences that extend beyond environmental policy, affecting economic stability, regional disparities, and political decision-making. This dissertation

combines quantitative panel data analysis with political analysis of water management to assess the effectiveness of regulatory measures at the EU level and within its member states. The primary objective is to identify the key factors influencing economic and political stability in regions affected by high water stress and to evaluate the efficacy of existing policy instruments in mitigating its impacts.

Thesis objective:

This dissertation focuses on the analysis of the political aspects and socio-economic consequences of water stress in Europe, examining its effects on regional economies, labor markets, migration, industrial sectors, and inequalities in access to water resources.

Title:

Hybrid Threats in the Financial System: Identification, Analysis, and Protection Strategies

Supervisor:

Dr. habil. Ing. Eva Jančíková, PhD.

Annotation:

The dissertation focuses on the investigation of hybrid threats, which represent a complex combination of traditional, cyber, economic, and informational attacks aimed at destabilizing financial institutions and the overall functioning of the financial system. The primary objective of this research is to first define and systematize the categories of hybrid threats within the context of financial markets, followed by an analysis of their impacts on economic security and the identification of gaps in current defensive mechanisms. The theoretical section presents an overview of contemporary knowledge on hybrid threats and their specific manifestations in the financial sector, taking into account the latest trends in cybersecurity and geopolitical risks. The empirical section is based on case studies, incident analyses, and comparative research, which together facilitate the proposal of concrete measures and strategies to enhance the resilience of the financial system against such threats. Consequently, this dissertation contributes to the development of an interdisciplinary approach to risk management and the safeguarding of financial stability in a rapidly evolving global environment.

Thesis objective:

The objective of the dissertation is to comprehensively identify and analyse the hybrid threats that endanger the financial system and, based on the insights gained, propose effective protection strategies. The study focuses on integrating traditional, cyber, and geopolitical risks to provide a multidimensional perspective on the issue and contribute to enhancing the resilience of financial institutions.

Title:

Socioeconomic and legal aspects of development cooperation in the context of current global challenges

Supervisor:

Dr. habil. JUDr. Ing. Katarína Brocková, PhD., LL.M.

Annotation:

The dissertation examines the socio-economic and legal aspects of development cooperation in the context of current global challenges. It analyses the challenges facing development cooperation from the perspective of donors at the bilateral and multilateral levels. Special attention is paid to the need for reforms in this area, which are increasingly appearing in expert discussions. The thesis also deals with the development of development cooperation financing and examines how these changes are reflected in the allocation of funds and the priorities of donors. It further examines the dynamics of relations between development cooperation actors and their mutual links. The thesis will attempt to identify new innovative tools and approaches that can contribute to higher efficiency and sustainability of development cooperation.

Thesis objective:

To provide an overview of the current state of development cooperation, identify key challenges, and analyze reforms and new approaches in the context of global and geopolitical changes.

Title:

The influence of Russia and China on the Western Balkan countries in the context of European integration

Supervisor:

doc. PhDr. Rudolf Kucharčík, PhD.

Annotation:

This dissertation deals with the influence of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on the countries of the Western Balkans and examines how these powers influence their political, economic and security development. The main aim of the thesis is to analyze to what extent this influence acts as a factor supporting or weakening the process of European integration of individual states of the region. The dissertation focuses on a detailed analysis of the mechanisms of Russian and Chinese influence, with particular attention paid to economic investments, political ties, energy dependence, disinformation campaigns and military-security factors. The research includes a SWOT analysis of the influence of Russia and China on the Western Balkans, which identifies the strengths and weaknesses of this influence, as well as the opportunities and threats that arise from it for individual states in the region. The dissertation also includes a comparative analysis that compares the scope and nature of the influence of Russia and China in individual countries in the region, including Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Albania. The dissertation also examines how the geopolitical and economic interests of these powers intersect with the European Union's policy and its efforts to integrate the Western Balkans. At the methodological level, the research relies on the analysis of policy documents, economic data and strategic partnerships, as well as expert interviews with analysts and policymakers in the region.

Thesis objective:

The dissertation seeks to answer the question of whether and to what extent Russian and Chinese influence represents a challenge or an obstacle to the future enlargement of the European Union in the Balkans.

Title:

How to enhance energy security in Palestine through international economic relations with neighbouring countries

Supervisor:

prof. Bruno Sergio Sergi, PhD.

Annotation:

The energy sector in Palestine has a unique status. The two main areas, West Bank and Gaza are not connected in terms of electrical grid. The demand is growing year by year which in role creates a shortage of power. The domestic generation makes a tiny percentage of energy sources, while imports mainly from Israel are making the high percentage. The previous mentioned facts about energy status in Palestine leads us to think that one of the issues which need to be tackled in Palestinian energy sector is energy security. Energy security doesn't have a definition that can be agreed totally between scholars worldwide. However, this research will focus on concept of energy security related to "security of supply aspect such as energy availability and prices". The main area of this research will be related to check the effect of Palestine economic relations with neighbouring countries on energy supply to Palestine.

Thesis objective:

The objective of the thesis is to identify new possibilities for energy trade, exchange and cooperation between Palestine and neighbouring countries as well as to identify scenarios for enhancing energy security in Palestine through economic relations with neighbouring countries.
