**Assessment of PhD candidate  
– for members of the Thesis committee –**

Faculty of Social Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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| **Name PhD Candidate**: | Click here to enter text. |
| **Title of the Dissertation:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Name of Supervisor**: | Click here to enter text. |
| **Department:** | Click here to enter text. |
|  |  |
| **Name of the Committee Member:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Affiliation:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Date:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Signature:**  *No signature required when submitted by email* |  |

*In this form members of the assigned Thesis Committee evaluate whether the PhD candidate fulfils the final attainment levels to obtain a PhD degree.*

*The assessment forms of the chair and the members of the Thesis Committee will be used by the chair of the Thesis Committee to report to the Dean prof. dr. Karen van Oudenhoven – Van der Zee.*

*After a decision has been made about the defense, the evaluations are forwarded to supervisor and candidate .*

**Recommendation**

* Based on the dissertation of the candidate and the assessment of the assigned promotor(s), the undersigned recommends that the candidate can defend the thesis:

**Yes No**

*Please elaborate your final recommendation with reference to the criteria indicated in the box below.*

With respect to originality of the dissertation

With respect to content, theory building and application

With respect to research design and methodology

With respect to academic skills

*Comments to the chair and dean not to be forwarded to supervisor and PhD (only if applicable).*

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**Potential consideration for granting a cum laude degree**

* The undersigned considers this dissertation to rank in the top 5% of the PhD research in the relevant scientific field:

**Yes No**

*If yes, would you please explain your reasons. Please add extra pages if needed.*

**Please note:** In the closed session after the oral defence the committee will also be asked to comment on the quality of the defence.

**Please send the completed form to the office of the Dean of the Faculty:** [bestuurssecretariaat.fsw@vu.nl](mailto:dissertation.fsw@vu.nl)

**Appendix: Criteria for the obtainment of a PhD degree from the VU Faculty of Social Sciences**

With respect to content, theory building and application, the PhD candidate:

1. Has advanced knowledge and understanding of (recent) theoretical developments in the area of expertise of his/her dissertation;

2. Has made a significant, original, and coherent contribution to scientific knowledge within his/her major discipline that can pass peer review.

3. Has broad knowledge and understanding of the general field of social sciences and possesses the ability to relate and position the work in his/her dissertation work vis á vis this broader field.

With respect to research design and methodology, the PhD candidate:

4. Has demonstrated the ability to choose and apply appropriate methods and analytical instruments (e.g., research design, data collection, measurement, analysis techniques) to answer particular research questions.

5. Has demonstrated advanced knowledge and understanding of the specific research design(s) and methods used in his/her dissertation research, the ability to relate these to alternative research methods within the social sciences, and analyze their applicability, strengths and weaknesses in specific circumstances.

With respect to academic skills, the PhD candidate:

6. Has demonstrated advanced writing skills to independently write scientific texts and articles that can pass (inter)national peer reviewed evaluation.

7. Has demonstrated the skills to orally present scientific research at (inter)national seminars and conferences.

8. Has demonstrated the skills to function as a full member of the scientific community (e.g., ability to collaborate in research teams; discuss, evaluate and design scientific research; deal with and conduct peer review of scientific articles)

9. Has demonstrated the skills to contribute to the valorization of scientific knowledge by communicating about his/her area of expertise to a broader (academic) community and/or by explaining its value for society in general and/or by teaching undergraduate students.

10. Is knowledgeable of the prevailing standards of scientific integrity, research ethics, and proper scientific behavior, is aware of prevailing codes of conduct to prevent integrity violations, and follows these norms for proper scientific behavior in his/her own research practice.