Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

BRADLEY CRANWELL

BA (University of Victoria, 2015)

“Unintentional Insecurity: The Effects of the EU’s Asylum Regime on Humanitarian Migration”

Department of Political Science

August 25, 2017
10:00 A.M.
David Turpin Building
Room A357

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Oliver Schmidtke, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Colin Bennett, Department of Political Science, UVic (Member)

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Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera, Department of Psychology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

This thesis assesses the unintended consequences of the European Union’s asylum regime. The structure of the asylum regime arguably burdens the Member States along the external border with responsibility of humanitarian migrants seeking international protection more than Member States to the north. As a result, the Member States on the external border pursue security measures of migration control to deter migration from their borderlands, consequently creating human insecurity. The question this thesis seeks to answer is as follows: How has the EU’s asylum resulted in unintended consequences of human insecurity and ultimately become a catalyst for human rights infringements? By reviewing the dimensions of insecurity, migrant immobility and rightslessness, I answer this question by arguing that migrant insecurity is a common phenomenon within the EU asylum regime as there is a tendency to pursue security measures that exclude migrants from obtaining regularized status within his or hers chosen Member State. In a time where the nexus between migration and security is a prominent feature in decisionmaking by state actors, reviewing measures of migration control is important to see the creation of insecurity. The thesis reviews the relevant concepts of the field, the make up of the asylum regime and how it consequently creates instances of insecurity and finally reviews Spain as a case study for Member States along the external border.