

Mentor Statement: Paul Kubicek, Professor, Department of Political Science

I have worked closely with Dana Parke on her HC thesis on the EU's response to the genocide in Darfur. In fact, we published an earlier version of this in a European international relations journal in 2011. Since then, Dana has worked on the project with great energy, including conducting interviews in Brussels. I have read 2 versions of the thesis, making suggestions in both cases. While neither she nor me are 100% satisfied with the final outcome (we both have high standards), the problems are limitations in the data, not anything with what Dana did. Overall, however, I am very satisfied with the result. It demonstrates her grasp of the issue, use of international relations theories and literature, impressive research, and solid organization. This is a superior thesis. I suspect she will continue work in international relations/Africa when she enrolls in a graduate program.