

INAUGURATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO PROFESSOR

Masaryk University	Faculty of Economics and Administration
Faculty	Public Economics
Procedure field	doc. Mgr. Jiří Špalek, Ph.D.
Applicant	Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University
Applicant's home unit, institution	

Board members

Chair	prof. Ing. Juraj Nemeč, CSc. <i>Masaryk University, ESF, Department of Public Economics</i>
Members	Univ. prof. i. R. dipl. Ing. Dr. Mikuláš Luptáček <i>IWI Industriewissenschaftliches Institut Wien; Vienna University of Economics and Business, Department of Economics</i> Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Friedrich Schneider <i>Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre</i> prof. Ing. Milan Žák, CSc. <i>University of Economics and Management Prague; Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University Prague</i> doc. PhDr. Michal Bauer, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University Prague</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Dr. Jirí Špalek was born on 11.4.1973 in PŘílepy. In 1996, he finished Master degree in Mathematics and Physics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Palacký University, Olomouc. In 1997, he joined the Faculty of Economics and Administration at Masaryk University as teacher and Ph.D. student, defending his thesis in 2003 in Public Economics with the topic "Tax Revenue Forecasting Methods in the Czech Republic". Between 2007 - 2010 he was member of the Research Centre for the Competitiveness of the Czech Economy at the Faculty of Economics and Administration MU (with focus on data analysis and data processing). From 2010 until 2019, he served as the Head of the Department of Public Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University and from 2016 also as the Director of the research institute Masaryk University Experimental Economics Laboratory (MUEEL). In 2011 the Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University approved him as the Associate professor (docent) in Public Economics.

His main research topics are Experimental and Behavioral Economics; Public Choice; Applications of quantitative methods in the public sector research. He served as the principal investigator of 3 research projects by Czech Grant Agency (GAČR), co-investigator of 11 projects (1EU 7FP, 4 GA ČR), principal investigator of OP VK project, Unit PI of 2 (SIMU+, MSCA-IF). He is the author of 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals (15 with non-zero IF), 57

articles in proceedings, 7 books, 4 book chapters and 85 citations in international databases. He received the Award of the Dean for the best academic monograph of the Faculty of Economics and Administration 2011 and the Award of the Dean for the best academic paper of 2011, 2010, 2009 respectively of the Faculty of Economics and Administration.

His three most important publications are as follows:

1. Fišar, M., M. Kubák, J. Špalek, J. Tremewan. Gender Differences in Beliefs and Actions in a Framed Corruption Experiment. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, Elsevier, 2016, 63, 69-82. ISSN 2214-8043.

Substantiation: We focused on the motivations of corrupt behaviour by eliciting actions and beliefs in a framed corruption experiment. We found that women are less likely to engage in costly punishment of corruption and believe corruption to be more prevalent than men. Differences between the genders in the relationship between beliefs and actions provides evidence that men experience a greater psychological cost as a result of social sanctions.

2. Špalek, J. *Veřejné statky: Teorie a experiment*. Praha: C.H, Beck, 2011. Edice *Ekonomie*. ISBN 978-80-7400-353-0.

Substantiation: A monograph aimed to open the subject of experimental economics to the wider Czech and Slovak scientific community. The book summarizes the contemporary knowledge of the economic phenomenon known as “free riding behaviour”. One of the methods employed when studying “public good” is economic experiment. The text presents selected results of public goods experiments.

3. Shaw, D.J.,K. Czekóová,R. Staněk,R. Mareček,J. Špalek,J. Řezáč,L. Kopečková,T. Urbánek,M. Brázdil. A dual-fMRI investigation of the iterated Ultimatum Game reveals that reciprocal behaviour is associated with neural alignment. *Scientific reports*, London: Nature Publishing Group, 2018, 8(1), 1-13. ISSN 2045-2322.

Substantiation: The paper is the result of the joint research with Professor Brázdil's neuroscience team at CEITEC MU. The research aims to understand the brain processes behind economic decision making by performing functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). By developing a novel model of reciprocity adapted from behavioural economics, we then show that each player's choices can be predicted accurately by estimating expected utility (EU) not only in terms of immediate payoff, but also as a reaction to their opponent's prior behaviour. Finally, for the first time we reveal that brain signals implicated in social decision-making are modulated by these estimates of EU and become correlated more strongly between interacting players who reciprocate one another.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Public Economics.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

The teaching portfolio of Dr. Špalek is closely connected with his research. He delivers courses on public economics, public choice, and research methods. He also serves as the guarantor of both the Bachelor's and Master's study programmes in Public Economy and Administration. His programme obtained international accreditation from the EAPAA agency in 2014 and was successfully re-accredited in 2019. As head of the department and lecturer he was involved in establishing and running the Czech-French programme “Public Administration” (MFTAP) in collaboration with the University of Rennes. In 2019 the programme has also obtained international accreditation by EAPAA. Both programmes are

the only study programmes in the country, which obtained the said accreditation. He also participated in establishing a double-degree study programme Public Finance and Economics in cooperation with the University of Rennes, Università del Piemonte Orientale Amedeo Avogadro and University of Tampere.

Dr. Špalek is the author of 5 textbooks, 2 study texts/teaching aids and 7 popular science texts and activities.

His two most important teaching publications are as follows:

1. Špalek, J. Aplikovaná statistika I+II. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2004. ISBN 80-210-3412-2.

Substantiation: The textbook summarizes the basic methods used for the public sector quantitative analysis. The textbook differs from the mainstream statistical textbooks as it aims to lead student to direct application of the methods. The textbook at the time became one of the first in Czech language of its type. All the methods are illustrated by the case studies covering economic and public sector issues.

2. Rektořík, J., V. Hyánek, I. Malý, J. Šelešovský, J. Špalek a kol. Ekonomika a řízení odvětví veřejného sektoru. druhé aktualizované. Praha: Ekopress, s.r.o., 2007. Ekonomie. ISBN 978-80-86929-29-3.

Substantiation: The textbook aims to understand the scope of the public sector, its current functions, organizational structures and management. Knowledge and understanding of the current public sector system is accompanied by the consideration of potential alternatives and discussion of their advantages and disadvantages. The background is basic knowledge of individual sectors of the public sector and work with up-to-date information about its changes. The textbook is widely used by student of the Czech and Slovak universities and is widely cited in diploma theses.

Thanks to his excessive international contacts Dr. Špalek managed to visit several universities abroad for medium to long-term academic stays, as follows:

- 2019 Macquarie University Sydney – Research fellow
- 2016 Université Rennes 1, Faculté de sciences économiques de Rennes 1 - visiting professor
- 2008 Università degli Studi di Verona (Lifelong Learning Programme ERASMUS)
- 2005 University College Dublin: Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences - European Science Foundation Scientific Programme
- 2004 Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna: Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences - European Science Foundation Scientific Programme

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Public Economics.

Evaluation of the applicant's position of outstanding and recognised scholar in the inauguration field

Dr. Špalek is important leading Czech expert in the area of behavioural public economics/public policy. His key research agenda aims to profit from the opportunities that experimental and behavioral research in economics can bring. Already in 2006, he started to apply economic experiments in teaching and gradually also in research (at that time there was a single Czech research facility where similar research was implemented - CERGE-EI). The wider economic Czech community did become familiar with economic experiments thanks to

these conducted by Dr. Spalek and team at the Faculty of Economics and Administration of Masaryk University. He and the team of MUEEL have been successful at establishing cooperation with the Czech and particularly international scientific community. He realised several international research projects, joint research project with Dr. James Tremewan of the University of Auckland, has been particularly important. They focused on the motivations of corrupt behaviour by eliciting actions and beliefs in a framed laboratory experiment. MUEEL team has succeeded also in establishing interdisciplinary cooperation within the university as well (projects with the research team of the International Institute of Political Science and with Professor Brázdil's neuroscience team at CEITEC MU).

As of today, he is accepted as the leading researcher in his professional area in the Czech Republic and as important internationally recognised scholar. We may argue that especially thanks to these activities the research area behavioural public economics/ public policy has been established in the Czech Republic, and he and his team are fore-runners in the regional perspective.

Dr. Špalek served and serves in important positions at the faculty and the university, especially as the member of the Academic Senate of Masaryk University (chair of Economic committee), the member of Masaryk University Equal Opportunity Panel, the Member of Doctoral Board Social Policy and Social Work, the Member of Doctoral Committee Public Economics, and the Member of Faculty Scientific Board.

Externally he serves as the evaluator within the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, the evaluator within the National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education (Panel for Economic specialisations), the member of Panel of Evaluators, The Research, Development and Innovation Council - consultancy body of the Government of the Czech Republic, the member of Faculty Scientific Board, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Pardubice, the member of Faculty Scientific Board, Faculty of Military Leadership, University of Defence, Brno and the member of Faculty Scientific Board, The School of Business Administration, The Silesian University, Opava, the member of Editorial Board European Financial and Accounting Journal (EFAJ), the member of Programme Board of the Doctoral Study Programme "State Defence Economy", Faculty of Military Leadership, University of Defence and the member of Programme Board of the Doctoral Study Programme "Regional and Public Economics", Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Pardubice.

Conclusion: The applicant **is** a respected and recognized scholarly figure in his field. The applicant **has** made a significant contribution to the development of his field. The applicant **constitutes** a leading figure in his field of scholarship or research (in regional perspective).

Secret ballot results

Number of board members		5
Number of votes cast		5
of which	in favour	5
	against	0
	invalid	0

Board decision

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and position in the field, the board

hereby submits a proposal to the scientific board of the Faculty of Economics and Administration of Masaryk University to


appoint the applicant as professor of Public Economics

terminate the procedure.

Date:

2.7.2020

Prof. Ing. Juraj Nemeč, CSc.



Signature

The voting was realised by electronic means, using the designated application of INET MU.