

HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Masaryk University

Faculty

Procedure field

Applicant

Applicant's home unit,
institution

Habilitation thesis

Faculty of Social Studies

Sociology

Robert Braun, Ph.D

Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna

Corporate Stakeholder Democracy

Board members

Chair

Members

Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Katrňák, Ph.D (FSS MU)

Ao. Univ.–Prof. Mag. Dr. Katharina Scherke, (Universität Graz)

Doc. PhDr. Csaba Szaló, Ph.D (FSS MU)

Doc. PhDr. Marek Skovajsa, Ph.D (FF UK Praha)

Doc. PhDr. Dino Numerato, Ph.D (FSV UK Praha)

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Robert Braun is an internationally recognized scholar who has published his research in scientific journals like *Science*, *Journal of Responsible Innovation*, *Research Ethics*, or *Journal of Science Communication*. He also published many book chapters on a specific theme. He participated in many research projects and grants. Braun works as a research assistant at Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna now. In the years 1991-1994 was an assistant professor at ELTE University of Budapest; between 1994 and 2019 he was an associate professor at Corvinus University in Budapest. From 2015 to 2018, Braun worked as a professor at Lauder Business School in Vienna. He did research at Rutgers University in the US, at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Wassenaar, in the Netherlands, and taught at numerous universities in the EU and the US. His core research interest is in the politics of societal transformation. His research projects currently involve the representation and engagement of stakeholders in corporate communities as well as the societal impacts of autonomous mobility. His past research included the politics of historiography and the politics of corporations.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of sociology.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Robert Braun teaches courses on corporate social responsibility and technological changes. He regularly gives lectures about the consequences of innovations for social life, and how new technologies are transferred to the everyday world. He also teaches how these new technologies influence social behavior in everyday life. He has a rich experience with many universities, faculties, and other institutions, where he participated in many courses and seminars. Robert Braun has given plenty conference presentations and invited talks at international events.

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of sociology.

Habilitation thesis evaluation

Robert Braun's thesis have been evaluated by three independent reviewers. Generally, these reviewers evaluate this habilitation thesis positively, even though they had a lot of additional questions. Two of these reviewers say that the thesis fulfills requirements for a habilitation thesis, one reviewer concludes that this thesis does not fulfill the requirements for a habilitation thesis.

Dr. Esther Oliver says in her review that the applicant clearly demonstrates his wide comprehension of the state of the art and of the different approaches in the academic understanding of corporate stakeholder responsibility (CSR). Nevertheless, the document does not incorporate any methodological explanation of the process followed to develop the analysis of the previous scientific contributions. That is why she asks in the end of her review: "Which are the methodological processes followed to develop this theoretical work? Which would be the most relevant conclusions from the overall work?"

Prof. Ondřej Císař says in his review that this thesis is relevant contribution to the discussion about the future of current capitalist society. But the problem is in the "normativity" of the thesis and presented ideas. Prof. Císař writes: "There are explicit normative proposals meant for the future in Habermas and Beck, there is an implicit one in Foucault. How do they relate to the vision of corporate stakeholder democracy by Braun? I would be very interested in reading more on that issue". The second problem is, according to prof. Císař, a somewhat linear type of argumentation and missing contextualization in the current relevant literature. At the end of his review, prof. Císař asks: „Can the vision of corporate stakeholder democracy be discussed in relation to the normative visions of currently influential sociologists and social theorists such as Habermas and Beck? And: „Can the consequences of globalization be discussed in relation to the argument of the book? The current complex structure of globalized economic institutions makes the straightforward vision of gradually developing corporate stakeholder responsibility untenable: in Císař's view. As demonstrated by Beck among others, modern institutions have recently become even more complex due to globalization. "How has it affected the conditions of possibility of the vision presented in the book?", Císař asks.

Dr. Madsen says that the thesis is well structured and clearly formulated to all audiences. It offers a well-written introduction to the field of corporate stakeholder responsibility. Dr. Madsen sees the problems of the thesis in assumptions that are not visibly formulated in the thesis, in the specific theories that are not clearly connected to stakeholder theory presented in the thesis, and Braun's grounded in classical and mainstream corporate stakeholder responsibility approaches. She writes that "the thesis relies on rather outdated ideas of public/stakeholder participation where the corporation decides who the relevant stakeholders are; corporation set and/or steer the agenda and informs the (selected) stakeholders with possibly biased facts on which informed agreements and consent can be made".

Members of the committee went through all reviews carefully and discussed the positive as well as weak aspects of the habilitation thesis. Because two reviews are positive, one of them is negative, members of the committee have concluded that the candidate should get a chance to defend his habilitation arguments in front of scientific board of FSS MU, where the discussion about his habilitation and all reviews should take place.

Conclusion: The applicant's habilitation thesis **meets** the requirements expected of habilitation theses in the field of Sociology.

Secret ballot results

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

Board decision

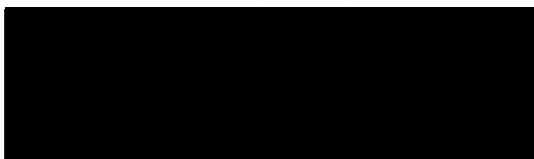
Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and habilitation thesis, the board hereby submits a proposal to the scientific board of the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University to

appoint the applicant associate professor of sociology.

terminate the procedure.

Date: 6. 10. 2021

Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Katrňák, Ph.D (chair of habilitation committee)



signature