

PUBLIC LECTURE EVALUATION

Masaryk University

Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	political science
Applicant	Mgr. Petr Ocelík, Ph.D.
Lecture date	27 September 2022
Lecture topic	Climate Scepticism in Czech Media: A One-Man Show?
Persons present (number)	21
Designated evaluators (board members)	Prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Kříž, Ph.D. Doc. Ing. Jakub Jirásek, Ph.D. Prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D.

The habitation committee selected the topic mentioned above among the three topics suggested by the candidate.

Petr Ocelík started his presentation by explaining why it is crucial to research the political dimension of climatical scepticism and introduced the main versions of this approach. He stressed the role of media as platforms for disseminating information on climate change and related policies and providing space for public debate. After setting his conceptual points of departure, Ocelík analysed empirical cases of Czech climate scepticism. He started with Václav Klaus to explain the changes in sceptical discourse, posing two research questions: What is the prevalence of climate scepticism in newspaper coverage over time? How has climate sceptic discourse adapted after Klaus's presidency?

Further, Ocelík introduced the method of discourse network analysis and his data sets in a way entirely understandable even to experts who are not using this particular method in their research.

Petr Ocelík delivered his presentation in English and demonstrated a capability to engage fluently in English. In the following vivid discussion, he answered all the questions without difficulties, revealing a deep understanding and rich awareness of his field of study. Ocelík's first study showed that Klaus utilised his privileged position and crafted a complex climate-sceptic narrative constructed around a populist ideology and conservative values, having quite a prominent role in the Czech debate on climate change. The second study demonstrated that discourse shifted from a polarised structure to a more diffused arrangement with no leader. Scepticism has lost visibility (no front-page placement) but not salience. Ocelík finished his presentation by suggesting avenues for further research.

Among the topics discussed, the audience asked about more precise concepts shared by the actors and to what extent the lack of data has been an argument employed by the Czech climate sceptics. Who are the researchers who participate in the Czech public debate? Another question asked about the selection of quality press only. The further questions were on the unique features of the Czech climate scepticism, the lack of presence of the Czech industry in the debate

Petr Ocelík answered all the questions by demonstrating deep knowledge and the ability to explain complicated matters clearly.

The committee of designed evaluators thus concludes that the public lecture of Petr Ocelík demonstrated his very sound academic and educational qualities.

Conclusion

The lecture delivered by Petr Ocelík, entitled "Climate Scepticism in Czech Media: A One-Man Show?" as part of the habilitation appointment procedure, **demonstrated** sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of political science.

Date: 27 September 2022

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signature

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