

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

Mgr. Eva Šlesingerová, Ph.D

Masaryk University,

Faculty of Social Studies, Brno

We, Other Utopians Recombinant DNA, Genome Editing, and Artificial Life

Board members

Chair

Members

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

Doc. Mgr. Adéla Suralová, Ph.D (FSS MU)

Doc. Mgr. Tereza Stöckelová, Ph.D (SOU AV Praha)

Doc. Mgr. Jakub Grygar, Ph.D (FSV UK Praha)

PD Dr. Peter Wehling (Goethe University Frankfurt, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Sociology)

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Eva Šlesingerová has been a talented scholar from the very beginning of her academic career. She received her MA degree in history in 2000 and in sociology in 2001, and in 2008, she qualified in sociology with a Ph.D. title. Since then, she has become – thanks to her intensive academic pursuits – an internationally recognized interdisciplinary scholar, making contributions to the fields of the sociologies of science, the body, medicine, and artificial life, as well as the relevant philosophical and ethical questions. Between 2005 and 2011, and again in 2015 and 2016, she served as chair of the Social Anthropology program at the Department of Sociology at FSS MU. Since 2019, she has taken on the role of deputy department chair for sociology. In addition, Eva was a member of the academic senate of FSS MU from 2015 to 2017.

Eva Šlesingerová has published her research in well-established and widely recognized scientific journals, such as *Body & Society*, *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, *Social Science Information* and *Czech Sociological Review* (WOS database). She has published two original books (one in English in 2022 with Routledge and one in Czech in 2014 with SLON), and one book as a co-author in 2015 with Munipress. In addition, she has published several book chapters on sociological and social anthropological themes, including race, memory, body and identity and several articles in other scientific journals (mostly listed in the SCOPUS database). She has given a significant number of invited talks and presentations in international forums and at conferences. She received the prestigious MCSA (Marie Curie) fellowship, and from 2017 to 2019, she worked at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany (at the Institute of Sociology, research group Biotechnologies, Nature and Society). In 2022, she received an EXPRO project for the next 5 years, a highly prestigious research grant in the Czech Republic. She is very active outside of the university, as a member of many international sociological associations and societies and as a regular reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals.

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

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Since 2004, Eva Šlesingerová has taught more than 25 courses in the fields of social anthropology and sociology at the bachelor's and master's levels. The courses covered topics such as the body, technology, anthropological theory, kinship and family and race. She has taught ethnographic methodology and epistemics, and their application in the study of science, medicine, and artificial life. Some of these courses have even attracted students from other faculties at MU, including the Faculty of Medicine. While tightly connected to FSS MU during her entire academic life, she also has rich experience with collaborations at universities, faculties, and other institutions in the CR and abroad, where she has participated in many courses and seminars.

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

Eva Šlesingerová's thesis has been evaluated by three independent reviewers. Generally, these reviewers evaluate the habilitation thesis very positively. For instance, Kristofer Hansson from Malmö University writes in his review that Eva Šlesingerová makes with her habilitation thesis "a major and novel contribution to the sociological research of modern biotechnology." To demonstrate, he uses three key concepts from the thesis: "post-genomic biotechnology medicine," the concept of the "future," and the concept of "laboratory embodiments." Through these three concepts, Hansson highlights the qualities of the thesis, asserting that they "provide good examples of the innovative thinking found in the book. Slesingerova has written a book with significant scientific achievement to the field of sociological perspectives on modern biotechnology, such as recombinant DNA, genome editing and artificial life. But it is also a book that have great importance for research within the field of science and technology studies. This book has high scientific qualifications."

Eben Kirksey, from the University of Oxford, states that "the candidate has a broad and deep command of the literature (...) The ways that the theory comes together with the ethnography is masterful. Ideas are taken off the shelf, inspected, reconfigured and then offered back to the reader. Artful juxtapositions and intimate ethnographic portraits make the concepts and ideas come alive." Csaba Szaló, from Masaryk University, suggests that the thesis "offers an impressive and detailed diagnosis of our world in which biotechnological utopias take the place of the modern emancipation project, including a vision of solidarity built-in political communities... It is a comprehensive theoretical exploration of the theme of genome editing...a valuable contribution to the contemporary debate about the role of imagination in technology development."

All three reviews conclude that the thesis fulfills the requirements for a habilitation thesis. Nevertheless, all each has some additional questions. Below are some questions that should be discussed during the presentation:

- What critical role has the ethnographic researcher with regard to (1) the biomedical field, and (2) to the researchers in the biomedical lab where the field work is done?
- What driving forces are there behind the relation between "dispositif de securite" and the threat that we risk creating new eugenics?
- If the aims of the laboratory were to study the "cause" of diseases like cancer, infertility,

and ageing (p. 34), how should we understand their experimental visions and claims in the context of knowledge about culture, power, and history? Is ageing a “disease”?

- Can we understand scientists' current erosion of depersonalization and rising aesthetic subjectivization as their answer to accelerating professionalization and specialization?

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	-

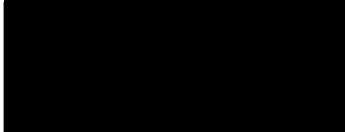
Board decision

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

Date: 18. 11. 2022

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


signature