

PUBLIC LECTURE EVALUATION

Masaryk University

Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	Political Science
Applicant	Mgr. Vladimír Ďorđević, Ph.D.
Lecture date	25 th January 2024, 2 p.m.
Lecture topic	A decade of undemocratising Serbia: Serbian Progressive Party and the destruction of alternatives
Persons present (number)	12
Designated evaluators (board members)	prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D. prof. PhDr. Kateřina Králová, Ph.D., M.A. doc. PhDr. Věra Stojarová, Ph.D.

In his public lecture, Vladimír Ďorđević addressed and thoroughly discussed the most substantial actor of democratic decline in Serbia, the Serbian Progressive Party (further SNS). His presentation had a clear structure. He explained why the topic is significant and explained Serbia's gradual turn to a hybrid regime, in which SNS, in general, and its leader Vučić, in particular, has played a crucial role, as well as the broader context of the de-democratisation of Balkan politics. He contextualised his presentation in the debate, emphasising stability and democratisation of Western Balkan against each other. The theoretical background of his argument was deeply anchored in the literature on personalised politics and regional democratic backsliding, stressing specific conditions given by political developments of post-Milošević Serbia and the failure to complete the democratic transition re-launched in that period.

Further, Ďorđević described and analysed the role of SNS, addressing dissatisfaction with previously acting leaders as a backbone of SNS success. He explained the paradoxical nature of expectations connected with the political rise of SNS. He demonstrated detailed knowledge and a deep understanding of Serbian politics to demonstrate the reality of Vučić's regime, its stabilisation, connected with corruption, elements of state capture, and populism in such a development. He explained how and why the SNS turned from a pro-EU pragmatic party interested in fighting corruption and improving Serbian politics to semi-authoritarian positions and policies. He convincingly showed the logic of the authoritarian turn, as connected with an incremental takeover of the control of the state institutions and media. From the perspective of a follower who might not be an expert on Serbian politics, the committee wants to assess positively Ďorđević's ability to highlight and explain important information without overloading the presentation with unnecessary details.

In the following lively discussion, Ďorđević answered all the questions and demonstrated his knowledge of the topic and the relevant concepts. The questions tackled the issue of EU enlargement, the impact of Serbian illiberalism (Vučić politics) on it, stabilitocracy, populism in Serbia, opposition in contemporary Serbia, the role of the UK, the role of the Orthodox Church, and perspective of further development in Serbia.

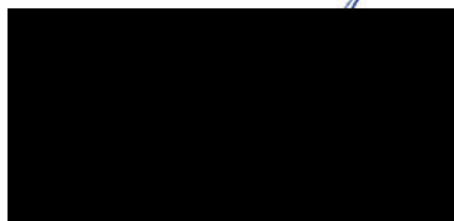
All in all, Đorđević's presentation and the following discussion demonstrated his ability to explain specific and scientifically significant topic in a comprehensive, concise, professional, engaged, and listener-friendly way.

Conclusion

The lecture delivered by Mgr. Vladimír Đorđević, Ph.D., entitled "A decade of undemocratising Serbia: Serbian Progressive Party and the destruction of alternatives" and delivered as part of the habilitation procedure, **demonstrated** sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of political science.

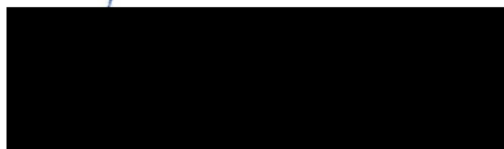
Date: 25th January 2024

prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D.



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prof. PhDr. Kateřina Králová, Ph.D., M.A.



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doc. PhDr. Věra Stojarová, Ph.D.



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