

HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	Political Science
Applicant	Mgr. Vladimír Ďorđević, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Mendel University in Brno – Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies
Habilitation thesis	The Many Faces of the Contemporary Russian Propaganda in the Balkans: Sputnik Srbija

Board members

Chair

Members

prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D. (FSS MU Brno)

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Filip Ejduš, Ph.D. (Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade University)

Prof. Dr. Florian Bieber (Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz)

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Vladimír Ďorđević belongs to the best experts on Balkan politics among the Czech academicians. His academic career started already during his post-graduate studies and has continued at the Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies, where he belongs to key personalities forming research objectives and areas at its Institute of Territorial Studies.

At the point the habilitation board decision was adopted, he had published, among others, eleven scholarly articles in the journals covered by the Web of Science database, and four papers in Scopus-indexed academic journals. His contributions were published in the leading journals in the field of area studies, political science, and international relations, such as Problems of Post-Communism, Black Sea Studies, Nationalities Papers European Security, Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, or Communist and Post-Communist Studies. Seven of his Web of Science outputs were published by the Q1 journals (measured according to AIS). He authored or co-authored one book and nine book chapters. Most of the book chapters appeared in renowned international publications, including a book published by the Cambridge University Press. He also co-edited three collected volumes, two of them being published by Palgrave Macmillan.

The international impact of his scholarship is confirmed by almost fifty citations in Web of Science and Scopus databases, including in top area studies journals such as the Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, JSMS: Journal of Common Market Studies, Southeastern Europe, or Journal of Contemporary European Studies. To confirm the impact of his work, we can list almost 140 citations registered by Google Scholar.

Based at the Central European Universities, he regularly cooperates with experts on Balkan politics in Europe and in the USA, including research stays at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Columbia University, and research collaboration involving the University in Copenhagen or the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. He was a co-investigator of the project "Hey Slavs! Visual Culture of Propaganda Inspired by Slavic Nationalism in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and its anti-European Character, funded by the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR).

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

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Vladimir Đorđević has a rich pedagogical experience, primarily from Mendel (assistant professor since 2016) and Masaryk Universities in Brno, where he has been teaching regularly since 2014. His courses delivered both in Czech and English fit the realms of both political science and international relations and integrally correspond with his research focus on Balkan countries' politics. He covers topics, among others, of the history of the existence and decay of Yugoslavia, the transition of Western Balkan countries, and contemporary politics in the Balkan region. He teaches on other topics, too, such as European integration, human rights in post-conflict societies, post-communist societies, and politics or democratisation. The records of student evaluation confirm his position as a knowledgeable, accessible, respected, and friendly acting teacher.

He is a sought-after bachelor and master thesis supervisor with a very high score of successful defences. He has supervised more than sixty bachelor and master theses, both at Mendel University and Masaryk University.

He is actively involved in activities aiming at teaching improvement and innovation. For example, he held (as the investigator) the Erasmus+ project aimed at inclusive international teaching assisted by digital technologies.

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

Habilitation thesis evaluation

Vladimir Đorđević submitted his habilitation thesis "The Many Faces of the Contemporary Russian Propaganda in the Balkans: Sputnik Srbija" in the form of the so far unpublished monograph. Three distinguished experts contributed with the reports on his habilitation thesis: Prof. James Ker-Lindsay (London School of Economics and Political Science), doc. Přemysl Rosůlek (Western Bohemian University), and Prof. Christian Voss (Humboldt University). All reviewers approached their task with the knowledge that there is the aim of publishing the thesis. Therefore, they produced untypically detailed reviews tackling particular issues of the manuscript. All reviewers stated that the submitted thesis fulfills the requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of political science.

Prof Ker-Lindsay formulated the opinion that the thesis "contributes to our understanding of the exact focus and nature of Russia's propaganda", although he expressed some reservations about the necessity to provide broader contextualisation of the research topic besides the focus on fringe nationalist parts of Serbian society. He appreciated the strong theoretical basis of the work.

Doc. Rosůlek stated in his review that “the author of the text chose a very updated, original and novel approach”, connecting very well issues of the authoritarian turn of Serbian politics with the problems of the freedom of the press. Rosůlek stressed the appropriateness of the research methods and the richness and variety of primary data collected and analysed during the research.

Prof. Voss positively acknowledged the rich corpus of primary materials as well as the high conceptual and methodological treatment of the research. He considered Serbia as a very suitable case for the study of polyphonic Russian propaganda in the Balkan region. In his review, he mentioned multiple empirical contributions of Đorđević’s research, too, labelling his performance as outstanding. In Voss’ view, the manuscript represents “several highly visible contributions at the fertile interface of constructivist Cultural Studies, Political Sciences and Modern History”.

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

Secret ballot results

Number of board members	5
Number of votes cast	5
Number of votes in favour	5

Board decision

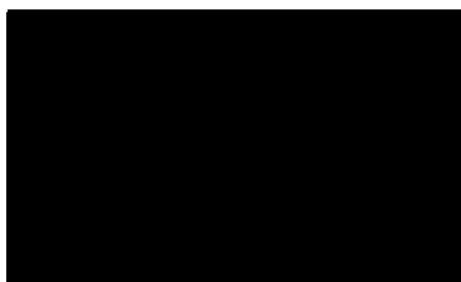
Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience, and habilitation thesis, the board hereby submits a proposal to the scientific board of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Masaryk University to

appoint the applicant associate professor of political science.

terminate the procedure.

Date: 29th January 2024

prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D.



signature