

HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

Masaryk University

Faculty

Applicant

Habilitation thesis

Reviewer

**Reviewer's home unit,
institution**

Faculty of Social Studies

Miriam Matejova

Environmental disasters and political activism

Dr. Deborah Barros Leal Farias

University of New South Wales Sydney

Dear members of the appointment committee,

I want to start by thanking you for the invitation and the opportunity to review Dr. Matejova's habilitation thesis, and I apologize in advance if my review deviates from what you would expect as this is a new format for me.

I read Dr Matejova's material with great interest. Her empirical puzzle is original and of empirical and theoretical relevance. The mixed methods provided a nuanced and deep understanding of the major phenomenon under review. The analysis of the topic under each of the four pieces of work is unique enough that the pieces are not just mere repetitions. Rather, they complement each other nicely, yielding a well-integrated and rounded final product. In fact, I do not have any reservations about the individual pieces or the final product.

Based on this material, I am confident that Dr Matejova has shown a very strong case for the appointment under review. She has demonstrated a capacity for high-level impact research in political science in general, and environmental politics in particular, and has positioned herself as a leading scholar in her area of study. I want to finish by congratulating her on this impressive work.

Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence (number of questions up to the reviewer)

1. I would be curious to know Dr Matejova's instincts regarding her findings vis-à-vis 'developing' countries. I understand that the thesis focuses on advanced industrial economies, so the question does not come from the standpoint of her missing this

discussion. What would/could be the potential variables or causal links that could be affected by a country not being an advanced industrial economy when thinking of major environmental disasters and public protests?

2. Does it matter what *kind* of environment is affected by disasters? For example, rivers *versus* (localized) forests? Similarly, if animals/fauna are affected more visibly than flora?
3. In the context of the empirical puzzle, are there expected triggers that might lead non-violent protests to become *violent* protests?

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled **ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM** by **Miriam Matejova** fulfils requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Political Science.

Date: 14/09/2024

Signature:

