

HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Economics and Administration
Procedure field	Economic Policy
Applicant	Ing. Mgr. Lucie Coufalová, Ph.D. et Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Lost in Transition and Ballot Papers: Four Papers on Economic Policy

Board members

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Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University

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School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London

prof. doc. PhDr. Mgr. Ing. Antonie Doležalová, Ph.D.

Department of Institutional Economics, Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

The applicant achieved a significant publication breakthrough in the period 2023-24, during which she and her co-authors published no fewer than six papers in reputable, internationally recognized journals. These include *Kyklos*, *Public Choice*, and *Business History*. The applicant was the sole author of the paper in *Business History*. She has demonstrated her ability to contribute to her field, produce high-standard publications, and establish a promising academic career. In 2023, she received the MUNI Scientist Award for her research achievements in 2022-2023. The MUNI Scientist Award honors researchers for their significant contributions and accomplishments in their field(s), aiming to encourage them towards excellence in scientific research. She was able repeatedly succeed in competitive grant schemes.

While the applicant has demonstrated an ability to publish in top/Q1 journals, the publication portfolio is still very recent and limited in scope – although dynamically growing. The applicant's contribution to broader international debates in the discipline is still limited as evidenced by the small number of WOS citations (23) to her articles, most of which are self-citations or citations by her co-authors.

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

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

The applicant has been regularly teaching standard economics courses in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics since 2017. She has also contributed to teaching specialized courses in Economic History. In 2023, she developed and adapted a new course in International Economics, which she currently leads. Her evaluations in student surveys are significantly above the average at ECON MUNI, making her a popular lecturer and a sought-after supervisor for bachelor's and master's theses.

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

Habilitation thesis evaluation

Thesis reviewers:

Prof. Ing. Jan Fidrmuc, M.A., Ph.D. (IESEG School of Management, Université de Lille)
Prof. Dr. Zohal Hessami (Ruhr University Bochum)
Martin Myant, Ph.D. (The European Trade Union Institute)

The habilitation committee ordered the production of three reviewers' reports. The reviewers were not unanimous in the evaluation of the thesis.

Prof. Fidrmuc positively evaluated the thesis, which was based on published papers. He emphasized that all four papers included in this thesis were published in respected peer-reviewed international journals: three are ranked as Level 3 in the ABS journal ranking, with one achieving a level 4. He further commented that she has an impressive track record of related publications and concluded that Lucie Coufalová is a promising and productive young academic who, in his opinion, deserves the habilitation.

The second reviewer, Prof. Hessami, was also highly positive about the applicant's thesis. She assessed highly that all the papers were already published in esteemed international peer-reviewed journals. She commented that this is a laudable achievement at this stage of Lucie's career and will allow her to become a well-cited and established scholar. Prof. Hessami concluded that Lucie Coufalová has co-authored four excellent papers that make significant contributions to the existing literature in comparative economics, economic history, and political economy. She showcased a deep understanding of various strands of existing literature as well as her competence in applying a broad set of methods. All four papers are characterized by deep reflection and a solid understanding of what the contributions and limitations of the papers are.

The third reviewer, Dr. Myant, was less favorable in his assessment of the thesis. While he expressed a positive view of the third and fourth papers, he was critical of the second paper and especially the first. His main objection to this part of the habilitation was that he felt there was insufficient coverage of the existing literature. He also raised concerns about the application of the oral history method.

Committee statement:

The committee agrees that the applicant displays a clear ability to develop and implement convincing econometric research designs, but feels the use of methods in business history can come across as rather limited and naive. That being said, the applicant is still bringing new data to important research questions, and makes relevant scientific contributions to the field. The variety of topics and research methods is considered a strength by the committee, displaying the broad ability of the applicant and is promising in terms of her future career prospects. The reviewers' assessments highlight some shortcomings, but it is important to keep in mind that the manuscripts have passed peer review in highly respected academic journals.

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

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 Economics of Masaryk University to

appoint the applicant associate professor of Economic Policy.

terminate the procedure.

Date: 25.9.2024

prof. Ing. Zdeněk Tomeš, Ph.D.

signature

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