

Annex 9: Habilitation board decision on the nomination for appointment to associate professor

Masaryk University

Faculty Faculty of Social Studies

Habilitation field Sociology

Applicant Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky, Ph.D.

Unit Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University

Habilitation thesis *The Boundaries Of Belonging: Symbolic Boundary Work Among Immigration Activists In The United States*

Board members:

Chair prof. PhDr. Ladislav Rabušic, CSc.
Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies

Members doc. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc.
Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science

Doc. PhDr. Ing. Radim Marada, Ph.D.
Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies

doc. PhDr. Marek Skovajsa, MA, Ph.D.
Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Dr. Ilja Šrubař, i.R.
Friedrich-Alexander-University, Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institut of Sociology

Habilitation board decision

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Nadya Jaworsky is an internationally well-known scholar of migration and transnationalism. Her first publication in the field, in 2007, co-authored with one of the top experts on transnationalism Peggy Levit, was for one of the most prestigious sociological journals (*Annual Review of Sociology*). It has been cited nearly 800 times and remains a contemporary “classic” for transnationalism studies.

Other co-authored articles arising from a grant awarded by the John Templeton Foundation (a prestigious US institution funding research, as they say “relating to the Big Questions of human purpose”) to investigate “spiritual capital” among immigrants are also well cited (see the publications 2+3 and/or 5+6 in the list of publications). In this innovative project, she made a substantive theoretical contribution to the existing literatures on social capital and immigration by conceptually disentangling spiritual capital from other forms of social capital and understanding its impact on the economic, social and political aspects of immigrants’ lives.

Continuing in the spirit of high-quality research, she has written her habilitation thesis in such a way that it will be published with Palgrave Macmillan in December 2016 under the title *The*

Boundaries of Belonging - Online Work of Immigration-Related Social Movement Organizations. It has been lauded already by one of the greatest contemporary US cultural sociologists, Jeffrey Alexander, who after reading the manuscript has written to Jaworsky that it is "one of the most original developments of SP (Strong Program) theorizing I've ever read." (Note: The Strong Program is a type of cultural sociology promoted by Alexander and Smith, outlined in a 2003 essay "manifesto" in the book *The Meanings of Social Life*).

An important feature of Dr. Jaworsky's scholarly profile is that she demonstrates a commitment to researching issues that are timely and socially relevant. An example is the refugee/migrant crisis: as it has unfolded, she is responding by studying media coverage of the latest debates on the topic. Results of this "research in progress" were the topic of her public "habilitation lecture" on October 5th with a very positive assessment both the evaluation board as well as the audience.

Nadya Jaworsky is also active in promoting and developing the field of cultural sociology, having come to Masaryk University six years ago as a sort of its ambassador.

Jaworsky is a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University, and maintains active connections with the Center. She is becoming recognized as an expert on cultural sociology as it relates to studying migration. For example, she was recently chosen for an invited special session of the 2017 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association entitled *The "Culture" of Immigration: Understanding Migration Through (Non-Essentialist) Cultural Analysis*.

In fall 2014, she was a visiting scholar at the Migration Research Unit at University College London for three months, cooperating with the department of geography on the cultural sociology of migration.

In addition to her specialization in migration and transnationalism, Nadya Jaworsky has demonstrated her intellectual flexibility by investigating political culture in the United States. Her co-authored book (with Alexander), *Obama Power*, a cultural sociological analysis of the 2012 presidential election in the U.S., was heralded by W. Wilson of Harvard University as a "page-turner, so well written and engaging that it is difficult to put down" and a "must-read." It has been reviewed in both scholarly journals (e.g. *Communication, Politics & Culture*, *Journal of Political Power*, *Societies without Borders*) as well as the popular press such as the *Irish Independent*, *Progress News* and the *Dublin Review of Books*, which writes that the book "provides a much needed corrective to the number-crunching, bean-counting campaign analysts and media pundits who purportedly just deal in "hard facts" and in percentage numbers, in short, in political algebra."

In terms of pedagogical service, Nadya Jaworsky is a regular peer reviewer for work on transnationalism and migration in scholarly journals and for the National Science Foundation, a major grant agency in the United States. She is a member of the European Sociological Association, participating in its conferences as a presenter and a chair. She was co-organizer for the Visual Studies conference in Brno in 2013.

Conclusion:

The applicant's scholarly / artistic qualifications *meet* the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Sociology at MU.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Nadya Jaworsky has taught in the department of Sociology at Masaryk University for over six years, having offered innovative classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the subjects of transnationalism, migration, cultural sociology, sociological writing, methodology, popular culture, race and ethnicity, and organizational studies. Her classes are extremely popular and she regularly receives very high evaluations from the students.

She is currently the director of the Master's level in the English-language sociology program, which attracts students from all over the world. Recently, she has outlined a new field (specialization) for this program, namely in migration studies.

Jaworsky has been active as a supervisor for Bachelors' (4) and Masters' theses (32), for both Czech and international students. Currently, she is consultant for 3 doctoral students, and supervisor for a visiting doctoral student from Poland. In addition to the formal supervision, her door is always open to students seeking consultation on their work, especially regarding articles they wish to publish. She regularly serves on the state examination board for the English-taught programs in Sociology and Cultural Sociology. In addition to her teaching activities in the department, she also gives lectures at a local secondary school.

Conclusion:

The applicant's pedagogical capabilities *meet* the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Sociology at MU.

Habilitation thesis evaluation

Jaworsky's thesis *The Boundaries Of Belonging: Symbolic Boundary Work Among Immigration Activists In The United States* has been reviewed by prof. Andrea M. Voyer of Pace University at New York, prof. Steven Saxonberg, Swedish-US sociologist based in FSS, and doc. Zdeněk Uherek of Ethnological Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. All three reviewers evaluate Jaworsky's work in a very positive way praising it for „originality“ (Voyer), „innovation“ (Uherek) and for being „well written“ with “strong methodological analysis” (Saxonberg). Naturally, they have their comments to the text and several suggestions for improvement but on the whole they recommend it as complying with habilitation standards.

Conclusion:

The habilitation thesis *meets* the requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Sociology at MU.

Secret ballot results

board members		5
board members present		4
votes cast		4
of which	in favor	4
	against	—
	invalid	—

Board decision

Based on the outcome of the secret ballot 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.

terminate the procedure.

In Brno, October

prof. PhDr. Ladislav Rabušic, CSc.

doc. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc.

doc. PhDr. Ing. Radim Marada, Ph.D.

doc. PhDr. Marek Skovajsa, MA, Ph.D.