

PUBLIC LECTURE EVALUATION

Masaryk University

Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	political science
Applicant	Mgr. Monika Brusenbauch Meislová, Ph.D.
Lecture date	12 January 2022
Lecture topic	Blame Assignment in the Czech and Slovak Political Discourse of Brexit
Persons present (number)	28 (present online via Zoom)
Designated evaluators (board members)	Prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D. Dr Tim Haughton Prof. PhDr. Jiří Lach, Ph.D., M.A. Doc. PhDr. Markéta Pitrová, Ph.D. Prof. PhDr. Blanka Řířhová, CSc., dr.h.c.

The habitation committee selected the topic mentioned above among the three suggested by the candidate. Due to the pandemic measures, the public lecture was held online.

Monika Brusenbauch Meislova started her comprehensive and effectively organised lecture with a brief introduction contextualising the topic in general debates on Brexit and a broader context of how discourses developed and employed by politicians matter. Further, she explained the rationale of her research of blame discourses in Czechia and Slovakia, posing the fundamental question, how has blame been attributed for Brexit by the Czech and Slovak governments?

After explaining her selection of cases, she described her theoretical framework and repertoire of methods. She succeeded to present a comprehensive and insightful view on the nature of political discourses and their role, demonstrating perfect command of approaches of discursive historical analysis (DHA). Her explanation of why she connected content analysis with thematic and in-depth argumentation analyses was clear and convincing. She introduced her dataset covering three and half years of Brexit negotiations and including the speeches of executive politicians of both countries.

Monika Brusenbauch Meislová presented an overview of empirical results in two tables, which allowed the audience to get a quick and accurate idea of her research outputs. Completed by thematic and argumentation analysis outcomes, the audience followed her interpretation of the results showing that the classical discursive strategies connected to the technique of blaming apply in Central and Eastern Europe. She drew some reasonable generalisations from her research at the end of the presentation, such as the interplay between the higher intensity of Czech exploitation of blaming given by higher representation of Euroscepticism in Czech politics.

MUNI

Monika Brusenbauch Meislová delivered her presentation in excellent English and demonstrated a capability to engage fluently in English. In the following vivid discussion, Monika Brusenbauch Meislová answered all the questions without any difficulties, demonstrating deep understanding and rich awareness of her field of study, including related theoretical debates. She also put her research into a broader context.

Among the topics discussed, the discussion tackled whether the differences among the “nations” are more significant than differences among the differently composed governments, whether there is any more general lesson we can learn from the Czech and Slovak cases, and the implications these empirical results, to what extent the Czech-Slovak divergence applies to more general stances of the governments vis-à-vis the EU etc.

The committee can therefore conclude that the public lecture of Monika Brusenbauch Meislová demonstrated her extraordinary academic and educational qualities. Being aware of a mixed audience, sometimes without direct experience with the narrower field of European studies, she maintained an ideal balance of academic maturity and accessibility of her presentation to a broader interested audience.

Conclusion

The lecture delivered by Monika Brusenbauch Meislová, entitled “Blame Assignment in the Czech and Slovak Political Discourse of Brexit” and delivered as part of the habilitation appointment procedure, **demonstrated** sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of political science.

Date: 12 January 2022

Vít Hloušek
signature

Tim Haughton
signature

Jiří Lach
signature

Markéta Pitrová
signature

Blanka Říchová
signature