

<b>Masaryk University</b>	
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Arts
<b>Procedure field</b>	History of Concrete Literatures (Germanic Literatures)
<b>Applicant</b>	Mgr. Tomáš Kačer, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Two Hundred Years of Wasteland. A History of Early American Drama
<b><u>Board members</u></b>	
<b>Chair</b>	prof. Mgr. Milada Franková, CSc., M.A. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i>
<b>Members</b>	doc. PhDr. Tomáš Pospíšil, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i> doc. Mgr. Martin Pšenička, Ph.D. <i>Univerzita Karlova</i> Prof. James Norris Loehlin <i>Texaská univerzita v Austinu</i> Prof. Theodora Tsimpouki <i>Athénská univerzita</i>

### **Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications**

The candidate Mgr. Tomáš Kačer, Ph.D. (1979) received his Master's Degree in English and American Studies in the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University and defended his Ph.D. dissertation in 2012 in the doctoral program Comparative Literatures. Since then and in his position of Assistant Professor in the Department of English and American Studies since 2013, his literary research and academic interests have focused largely on 20th century British Literature and Cultural Studies, more particularly on drama, which then includes also other periods as well as American Drama. In these areas he published two books: *New Messengers: Short Narratives in Plays by Michael Frayn, Tom Stoppard and August Wilson* (2013) and *Dvousetletá pustina. Dějiny starší americké dramatiky* (Two Hundred Years of Wasteland: A History of Early American Drama) (2019), the latter having been submitted as habilitation work. At the same time, he published shorter pieces, such as chapters in three scholarly book publications, 12 articles in WoS, Scopus and peer reviewed journals in Poland, Spain, the US and the Czech Republic. In cooperation with other authors, he also created three original works of art for different theatres. Dr. Kačer presented his scholarly work at 11 invited lectures and 15 international conferences, apart from this country in Germany, Poland and Austria. Besides publishing reviews on other scholars' work, he also translated from English 19 books of contemporary quality fiction and scholarly studies. His published work has received more than 80 citations, which is an indicator of the work's significance. For his research he won a prestigious 10-month Fulbright Scholarship, spent on attachment to the University of Texas, Austin, USA in 2017-2018. At the Faculty of Arts MU, he participated as Co-investigator in three scholarly projects (GAČR). Dr. Kačer is a member of the Association for the Study of English (CZASE), which is part of the European association (ESSE).

**Conclusion:** The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation appointment procedure in the field of History of Concrete Literatures (Germanic Literatures).

### **Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience**

Dr. Kačer's pedagogical work and experience includes teaching a large number of different literature courses in English, at a Bachelor's level, e.g. Introduction to Literary Studies, British literature 1890-1945, American Drama, in the Master's program, e.g. Literary and Cultural Theory, specialized courses on British and American Drama and various individual British or American dramatists. At a doctoral level he teaches two of the compulsory courses in the PhD program "Literatures in English". Besides the wide-ranging teaching, he also devotes his time to working with the Department's student drama group Gypsywood Players on producing much acclaimed theatre performances. Dr. Kačer is a member of state examination boards (SEB), doctoral boards (DB) and doctoral committees (DC). He has supervised 20 successful Bachelor's Theses and 7 Master's Theses, currently he supervises two PhD students. This section also includes popularization of the candidate's research area to which he valuably contributed by 10 texts published in Brno theatres' programs. Dr. Kačer has taught courses at Greek Universities in Thessaloniki and Athens in 2018 and 2019. At FF MU he has participated in a number of education projects – 7 as co-investigator and 4 as principal investigator.

**Conclusion:** The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation appointment procedure in the field of History of Concrete Literatures (Germanic Literatures).

### **Habilitation thesis evaluation**

Dr. Kačer's book *Dvousetletá pustina. Dějiny starší americké dramatiky* (Two Hundred Years of Wasteland: A History of Early American Drama) published in 2019 was assessed for the purpose of habilitation by three specialists in American literature and drama. All three reviewers/opponents declare that dr. Kačer's book meets the required standards for habilitation.

Prof. Josef Jařab (Palacký University) hails the book as original, filling the so far empty and neglected space in the history of American letters written in Czech. He appreciates the rich detail of theatrical context and drama writing rendered and debated skillfully, showing the author's scholarly erudition. The inclusion of a short anthology of dramatic texts, their choice and translation are also deemed worthy of praise.

Prof. Bohuslav Mánek (University Hradec Králové) considers the book a pioneering study in the context of Czech American scholarship. He commends the author's extensive knowledge of his primary and secondary sources, the historical, social and cultural context as well as the topical contemporary controversies in critical debate about the period.

Prof. Pavel Drábek (University of Hull) points out the important contribution of Kačer's book to the history of American dramatic literature and teatrology written in Czech, thereby providing the Czech reader with a unique source of rigorously mediated historical period of drama. He is particularly appreciative of Kačer's painstaking archival research and work with primary material, and how in confrontation with the latest research Kačer reflects the shifts in the perception of individual phenomena and developments.

**Conclusion:** The applicant's habilitation thesis **meet** the requirements expected of habilitation theses in the field of History of Concrete Literatures (Germanic Literatures).

