

## HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

<b>Masaryk University</b>	
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Economics and Administration
<b>Procedure field</b>	Public Economics
<b>Applicant</b>	Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Faculty of Social and Economic Studies, Department of Economics and Management
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	The Economics of Religion in Communist and Post-Communist Central Europe

### Board members

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**prof. Ing. Juraj Nemec, CSc.**  
Department of Public Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University

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**prof. Ing. Martin Macháček, Ph.D. et Ph.D.**  
Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics, VŠB Technical University Ostrava

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School of Economics, University of Kent

**doc. Niclas Berggren, Ph.D.**  
The Research Institute of Industrial Economics IFN, Stockholm

**doc. PhDr. David Václavík, Ph.D.**  
Department for the Study of Religions, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University

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

The scholarly qualifications of Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. are confirmed by the list of his publications and by his impact on the development of the discipline. From the point of the publications the candidate claims in his habilitation material:

- 14 articles registered in the WoS database plus three extra articles registered in the database Scopus;
- One monograph in the Czech language;

He also claims 70 quotations of his academic articles in his habilitation material. Under his name and affiliation, we found 19 publications (including proceedings) and 54 quotations in the WoS database on 22 March 2024. His H-Index in the WoS database is four. In Scopus the number of citations is 67 and the H-Index 6. In Google Scholar, the citations are 125 and the H-Index 6.

Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. was between 2019 and 2022 the principal investigator in a research project titled "Religion under communist regime: A rational choice perspective" supported by the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR grant no. 19-07748S). He participated also in other GAČR projects.

From the point of the development of the discipline the research of Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. dominantly focuses on the economics of religion, particularly on the religion in Central and Eastern Europe under the Communist rule and in the post-communist period. Three major lines can be identified. The first line of research offers microeconomic explanations of religious behaviour under Communist rule and in the post-communist period. Economic models formulated within that research aim to explain short duration of post-communist religious revivals, diversified (legal and illegal) operation of religious groups under Communism and persistence of religious opposition under Communism. The second line of research deals with the church-state relations in Czechia. The third line of research focuses on the relation between religiosity and social and economic attitudes in the post-communist period. The research shows that religion had some impact on those attitudes despite the Communist rule, thus influencing the post-communist transition. In 2018 the candidate published the first Czech book on the economics of religion titled "Ekonomie náboženství a náboženství v postkomunistické Evropě" [The Economic of Religion and the Religion in Post-Communist Europe].

The committee agrees that the academic works of Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. delivered a critical impact on the development of the discipline in the conditions of the Czech Republic.

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

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

The pedagogical work of Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. focuses on economic theory and its extensions towards the public sector, particularly law and economics, institutional economics, and public choice theory. His teaching career began at the Prague University of Economics and Business and continued at the Cevro Institute, a private college in Prague, and the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. In 2016 and 2017, he was invited to teach as a visiting professor at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest, Romania. Currently he is lecturing economics and public choice theory at the J. E. Purkyně University.

The candidate has contributed to preparation of more new academic programs: at the Cevro Institute the program in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) taught in English language; at the J. E. Purkyně University the master's degree program in Economics and Management of the Public Sector.

During his career Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. supervised 34 bachelor's theses and 24 diploma theses.

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

### **Habilitation thesis evaluation**

The habilitation thesis of Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. is delivered as a set of published works – it consists of the "unification" part and of five different papers, all published in established international peer-reviewed scientific journals. The thesis was evaluated by three leading experts in the area:

- Assoc. Prof. Martin Rode, PhD., Department of Economics, School of Economics and Business, Universidad de Navarra
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Jan Mewes, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University
- doc. Ing. Vladimír Hyánek, Ph.D., Department of Public Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University Brno

All three reviewers concluded that the habilitation thesis fulfils the requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Public Economics. The habilitation committee studied all three reviews in a detailed way. According to its opinion the thesis represents important value added to the current state of knowledge. The habilitation thesis contributes to the innovative and inspirational research in the field of the economics of religion and offers valuable insights into the economic dynamics of religion in the context of communist and post-communist Central Europe. The committee appreciates that although the author uses a variety of scientific methods, his main theme is clearly defined and relevant. The habilitation thesis provides a series of important strengths with respect to its integration and coherence, the expertise demonstrated by its scholarship, as well as the theoretical rigor and its empirical validity. The thesis undertakes the laudable endeavour to deviate from the frequently criticized Western-centric view of the field, shifting the focus to the economics of religion in Communist and post-Communist Central Europe. Mgr. Ing. Pavol Minárik, Ph.D. does offer a quite unique extension of the research field of the economics of religion by his knowledgeable focus on this group of countries, with its particular experiences of an anti-religious regime. We also think he convincingly argues that the insights are relevant for, e.g., China today and how religion fares under communist rule there.

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

### 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 and Administration of Masaryk University to

appoint the applicant associate professor of Public Economics.

terminate the procedure.

Date: 26. 3. 2024

prof. Ing. Juraj Nemec, CSc.

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