

HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

Masaryk University

Faculty

Faculty of Social Studies

Applicant

Dr. rer. pol. Tomáš Imrich Profant

Habilitation thesis

Development and Development Cooperation:
Historical, Theoretical and Empirical Studies

Reviewer

dr hab. Małgorzata Myśliwiec, prof. UŚ

Reviewer's home unit, institution

University of Silesia in Katowice

The review has been prepared in accordance with the rules of sections 71 and 72 of Act No.111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on the Modification and Amendment of Other Acts, in compliance with Masaryk University Habilitation Procedure and Professor Appointment Procedure Regulations and Directive No. 7/2017 on Habilitation Procedures and Professor Appointment Procedures.

The degree of habilitated doctor is awarded to a person who:

- 1) holds a doctoral degree;
- 2) has achieved scientific achievements constituting a significant contribution in the development of a specific discipline, including at least:
 - a) a scientific monograph published, or
 - b) a collection of previously published scholarly works with commentary, that can include peer-reviewed scholarly articles, book chapters, and articles in conference proceedings, published in accordance with the definition of the Copyright Act (Section 4 (1) of the Copyright Act).

Presented habilitation thesis is the second type of achievement. It is a collection of five articles. Three of them were published in Czech journals (in total: 68 pages), one in Slovak journal (in total: 25 pages) and one in impact factored journal (IF`22: 1.400), published by Routledge, British multinational publisher (in total: 22 pages). In total then: 115 pages to present a very wide topic, proposed in the title of the habilitation thesis.

Looking at the proposed title and comparing it with the submitted content, one should ask the following question: in which discipline is the doctor applying for a degree? On one side we

have the information about „historical study”. However, the problem is that articles submitted for evaluation do not show either historical sources nor the methodology specific for research conducted usually in historical studies. The next part of the title announces „Theoretical and Empirical Studies”. Three of five presented articles refer to the theoretical part: the concept of power, development and development cooperation. And two of them refer to the case study of Slovakia. It can therefore be assumed that the presented collection is located more in the field of political science. But to qualify it with certainty, three elements are definitely missing: the main research question or hypothesis for the entire collection, source database and methodology. Besides, presenting the theoretical approach, as well as the state of art, the author does not indicate in a clear way where is the research gap. Main aims and research questions are presented for particular papers (not in each paper in a very clear way), but not for a whole collection as the coherent research project. Therefore, in the case of the assessed habilitation cycle it is almost impossible to say which original research problem was solved and why a significant contribution to the development of political science discipline in general was made.

When presenting a Commentary on the habilitation collection, the author did not describe in any way the time nor territorial framework of conducted research. Therefore, it is not known exactly what are the starting and ending time points and what justifies their selection. The same remark applies to the territorial scope of the work. For example, in the first article (Profant, Tomáš. 2021. “Koloniálny rozvoj: počiatky, príčiny, diskurz, prax, kontinuity a následky”. *Historická Sociologie* 13(1): 25–48) we read about French and British colonial development legislation, Global North and Global South, and in articles fourth (Profant, Tomáš. 2015. “Slovenské mimovládne ‘rozvojové’ organizácie ako politickí aktéri”. *Sociológia* 47(1): 113–38) and fifth (Profant, Tomáš. 2018. “The Social Construction of Slovakia as a Donor and its Power Effects”. *Europe-Asia Studies* 70(3): 365–87), the author limits exclusively to the territory of Slovakia without any logical justification why.

A clear assessment of the dissertation's location in a proper discipline and its importance for the discipline development is hampered by the lack of description of the source database. This element was not included in the Commentary at all. It means that the work does not meet the basic requirement for a habilitation thesis, i.e. originality.

In consequence: the lack of a description of the source database made impossible the correct description of the research methodology. It is not enough for any scientific publication to inform about „any” research methods, technics or tools. Their description must be a consequence of

a prior, conscious selection of a source database. It is therefore no coincidence that in point 8 of Commentary the term "Bibliography" was used and not "References".

Taking into account comments presented above I conclude that the presented collection does not meet the basic requirements for habilitation thesis. The title of the collection does not strictly correspond to its content. The lack of a proper description of source base and methodology does not even allow to locate assessed thesis in a specific scientific discipline. The author did not present any research questions or hypotheses that would indicate to a coherent and original research project. The lack of presentation of the temporal and territorial scope of work is observed. Besides, if the work were to be included in the discipline of political science, showing only one example – of Slovakia - does not allow to compare the practical application of the proposed theory in more than one case. Presented collection does not solve any original research problem and can't be regarded as a scientific achievement constituting a significant contribution in the development of the discipline of political science.

Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence (number of questions up to the reviewer)

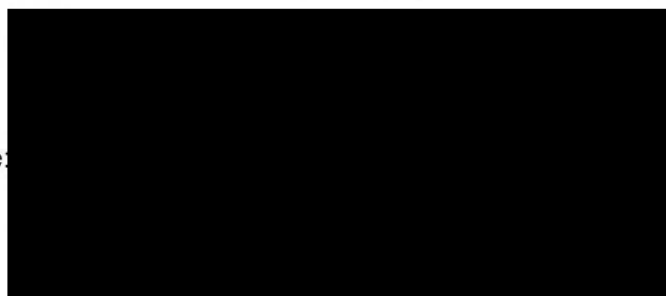
1. What is the main research question/hypothesis of the presented habilitation collection?
2. Which original research problem solves the habilitation collection and what is its contribution to the development of political science?
3. What is the time framework for the study? Please provide and justify the starting and ending caesura for conducted research.
4. What is the territorial scope of the study? Please present it and justify.
5. What original sources were examined and using what research methods?

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled Development and Development Cooperation: Historical, Theoretical and Empirical Studies by Dr. rer. pol. Tomáš Imrich Profant **does not fulfil** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of political science.

Date: May 6, 2024

Signature:

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the reviewer.