

PUBLIC LECTURE EVALUATION

Masaryk University

Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	Media Studies and Journalism
Applicant	PhDr. Lenka Vochocová, Ph.D.
Lecture date	23 rd September 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Lecture topic	Safe in digital communities? Third spaces as specific online discussion environments
Persons present (number)	15
Designated evaluators (board members)	prof. PhDr. David Šmahel, Ph.D. doc. Mgr. Jakub Macek, Ph.D. doc. Mgr. Petr Szczepanik, Ph.D. (online) doc. Mgr. Andrea Hanáčková, Ph.D.

The lecture focused on online political participation within online communities, referred to as “third spaces.” The applicant explained her perception of “third spaces” based on her research. She presented gender differences in online political participation and highlighted key findings: politics is an important topic of discussion in women’s online communities, and there is a significant effort to present rational arguments in forums. In the next part, the applicant described ways in which participants in parenting forums prevent conflicts. These include sharing personal experiences as a resource and resolving emerging conflicts by revealing one’s own position, among others. Overall, the candidate presented very interesting results from her research to the audience. She suggested follow-up studies focusing on other types of forums, such as men’s forums, monitoring the dynamics of discussions over time, and examining the role of “super-participants” in discussions.

The applicant’s lecture was followed by a discussion with the board members and the audience. She received several questions, such as:

You found that rude comments were present in 37% of posts. You mentioned that “you did not find the environment to be more polite.” However, what are you comparing it to—what other environment are you using as a benchmark for politeness?

Is it realistic to identify genuine political individuals who participate in such discussion forums, or even detect chatbots that enter and promote specific political positions?

Are you aware of how these discussion groups are moderated and whether the group rules influence the discussions?

Dr. Vochocová answered all the questions to the satisfaction of the committee members and the audience.

The presentation had a very good structure, making it easy for the audience to follow. The applicant demonstrated excellent presentation and teaching skills. She successfully maintained the audience’s attention and interest throughout.

Conclusion

The lecture delivered by PhDr. Lenka Vochocová, Ph.D., entitled *Safe in digital communities? Third spaces as specific online discussion environments* and delivered as part of the habilitation procedure, **demonstrated** sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure procedure in the field of Media Studies and Journalism.

Date: 23rd September 2025

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