

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

<b>Masaryk University</b>	
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Social Studies
<b>Procedure field</b>	General Psychology
<b>Applicant</b>	Mgr. Ivan Ropovik, PhD.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Sciences
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Addressing measurement and evidence quality idealizations in gaming research

### Board members

**Chair**

**Members**

**prof. PhDr. Zbyněk Vybíral, Ph.D.** (FSS MU)  
**prof. Mgr. Peter Halama, PhD.** (Slovak Academy of Sciences)  
**prof. PhDr. Matúš Šucha, Ph.D.** (Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc)  
**doc. PhDr. Bc. Iva Poláčková Šolcová, Ph.D.** (Institute of Psychology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)  
**Prof. Christopher Chambers** (Cardiff University)

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

In the early years of his professional career Ivan Ropovik attained academic degrees in Education (M.A. and Ph.D.) and defended his doctoral dissertation at University of Prešov in 2012. During the last decade he has re-oriented his research to focus on several aspects in psychology, methodology, mental health, psychopathology, and psychometrics. He became the expert in advancing scientific methods, measurements and technologies with particular focus on enhancement and refining the research in psychology. Currently, he works as a senior research scientist at the Faculty of Education, Charles University, collaborating with the Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Sciences, and as a senior researcher at Annecy Behavioral Science Lab.

The candidate's *scientific excellence* is evidenced by an extensive publication record, comprising 54 documents indexed in Scopus —most of them published in the leading journals of the field. Ropovik's work has received over 1,440 citations (excluding self-citations), and his current h-index is 18 on Scopus Citation Report. His Google Scholar citations in the past 5 years (since 2021; h-index=22, i10-index=33) comprise more than 2,400 records. The trajectory of his citations was constantly increasing over time (since 2018), with the majority of articles (34 from 54) published in the last 5 years (2021 – 2025). The candidate has notable contributions in highly respected journals (in 25 different journals during the last 5 years, including the prominent outlet *Nature Human Behaviour*).

The candidate has been successful in obtaining support for his research projects. He has been involved in 15 grant projects at Charles University, Masaryk University, Czech Academy of Sciences, University of Prešov, Slovak Academy of Sciences, and Annecy Behavioral Science Lab. He has contributed within five domains; most of his contributions were published

in Q1 (or D1) psychology journals. The five mentioned domains are: a) studying research itself with themes like replicability focusing on refining research practices; b) mental health (e.g., how technological tools impact psychological well-being) aiming to help advance methodology in mental health research; c) “big team science” addressing societal challenges; d) methodology of research; and e) psychometrics. His research contributions span from worldwide influential studies covering important trends in psychology and societies to very detailed aspects of psychological measurement, including validation. In majority of these studies he has served as either as the leader or senior author (methodologist / statistician). For further details see the candidate’s “Biosketch”.

The candidate demonstrates strong managerial skills and the ability to take on leadership responsibilities. His leadership capacity is evidenced by his co-coordination of several multi-country research studies. The *international character* of his work is demonstrated by his membership of numerous international co-authorship teams and his role as a methodologist in prominent worldwide replication studies. He has collaborated repeatedly with Charlie Ebersole and other co-authors in Many lab projects, e.g. from University of Virginia and Stanford University, and teams from 9 universities and 101 laboratories participated in Many Labs 5, which focused on priming, moderation, replication and protocols. This broad collaboration resulted in two studies published in *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* (Ebersole, Ch. R., Mathur, M., Nosek, B. et al., 2020; IJerman, H., Ropovik, I. et al., 2020). Further see e.g.: Tierney, W. et al. (2020, 2021), or Moshontz, H. et al. (2018).

The candidate has also participated with researchers at Harvard University, Northwestern University, Willamette University, University of Tartu, and Stanford University in a special network (“Psychological Science Accelerator”). The teams explored effect of reappraisal interventions in 186 laboratories in 55 countries, with the findings published in *Nature Human Behaviour* (Wang, K. et al., 2021). A further example of his co-authorship in *Nature Human Behaviour* was the multisite study testing effects of mindfulness interventions on stress reduction (Sparacio, A. et al., 2024; the first author was his doctoral student).

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

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

Regular teaching conducting by the candidate is clearly documented. Ivan Ropovik has been teaching in Bachelor and Master programs at the University of Prešov since 2009 and in the Doctoral program since 2017. He has supervised almost 40 Bachelors and Masters theses and has served as a member of state examination boards from 2010. He has also served as supervisor of one doctoral student (Alessandro Sparacio) in a joint-degree doctoral programme at Université Grenoble Alpes a Swansea University. At the moment, he serves as a consultant of one doctoral student (Sharanya Mosalakanti) within his cooperation with Annecy Behavioral Science Lab and Université Lumière Lyon 2.

Total 33 citations of his pedagogical works were listed in Annex 4.

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

### **Habilitation thesis evaluation**

All three reviewers emphasized the scientific rigor and scientific quality, depth of critical perspective including self-critical stance, and originality of the habilitation thesis. The thesis is appreciated as a coherent set of studies that indicate the strong potential for continued development in both theoretical conceptualization and methodology. The reviewers also appreciated the candidate's healthy skepticism, and openness to debate. All three reviews contain many suggestions, or inspiring issues which could be further discussed.

Lukas Blinka's questions are focused on a) a polarity between the latent and (or versus) networks approaches in the case of mental disorder; b) examination of gaming disorder with non-clinical versus clinical populations. Kateřina Lukavská proposes the question: "How do you interpret the finding that publication bias was not as detrimental as might have been expected?" Her further questions concern with a problem of idealization and a network-based psychopathology. Vasileios Stavropoulos addresses similar questions mentioned already in Blinka's review, e.g. "To what extent does the author view network models as fundamentally incompatible with latent-variable approaches, and might certain disorders or stages of disorder development legitimately exhibit both characteristics? Or: "To what extent are the observed network structures expected to generalise from non-clinical to clinical populations?"

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

#### 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 Social Studies of Masaryk University to

appoint the applicant associate professor of General Psychology.

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

prof. PhDr. Zbyněk Vybíral, Ph.D.



