

COMMENTARY TO HABILITATION THESIS¹

Name of the habilitation thesis:

Human impact on forests in the past millennium

Name and surname of the applicant:

Péter Szabó

This habilitation thesis presents my research carried out over the past sixteen years on the impact human societies had on forests in the past millennium in the Czech lands. The work is organized into four thematic parts, which follow the development, heyday, decline and rediscovery traditional woodland management through time. The first part (papers 1-7) discusses the history of traditional woodland management, especially coppicing, from the Middle Ages until the 20th century. The second part of the thesis (papers 8-11) addresses the non-timber uses and the multiple use of forests. The third part (papers 12-14) focuses on building timber: tree species used, geographic origins and the factors influencing building activity. The fourth part of the thesis (papers 15-18) describes the abandonment of traditional management, its negative consequences for biodiversity, as well as the process of its rediscovery and the current state of reintroduction efforts in the Czech Republic. The overall aim of this habilitation thesis is to provide a comprehensive summary of my research within the general framework of the state of the art and recent advances in forest historical studies in Europe and elsewhere.

Altogether 18 papers. First or single author: 11 papers. Last author: 2 papers.

[1]² Szabó P. (2010) Driving forces of stability and change in woodland structure: A case-study from the Czech lowlands. *Forest Ecology and Management* 259: 650-656.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2009.11.026> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	100	100	100

[2] Szabó P. (2010) Ancient woodland boundaries in Europe. *Journal of Historical Geography* 36: 205-214. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2009.10.005> [Q2 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	100	100	100

¹ The commentary must correspond to standard expectations in the field and must include a brief characteristic of the investigated matter, objectives of the work, employed methodologies, obtained results and, in case of co-authored works, a passage characterising the applicant's contribution in terms of both quality and content.

² Bibliographic record of a published scientific result, which is part of the habilitation thesis.

[3] Szabó P. (2024) It's a fair coppice: methodological considerations of the history of woodland management. In *Countryside History: The Life and Legacy of Oliver Rackham*, ed. I. D. Rotherham & J. Moody, pp. 258-270. Pelagic Publishing: London.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	100	100	100

[4] Szabó P. & Hédli R. (2013) Socio-economic demands, ecological conditions and the power of tradition: past woodland management decisions in a Central European landscape. *Landscape Research* 38: 243-261. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01426397.2012.677022> [Q3 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	70	80	75

[5] Szabó P., Müllerová J., Suchánková S. & Kotačka M. (2015) Intensive woodland management in the Middle Ages: spatial modelling based on archival data. *Journal of Historical Geography* 48: 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2015.01.005> [Q2 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	70	70	80

[6] Szabó P., Šipoš J. & Hédli H. (2021) Standards versus underwood: historical patterns of tree taxon occurrence in coppice forests. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 32: e12963. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.12963> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	60	70	70

[7] Müllerová J., Szabó P. & Hédli R. (2014) The rise and fall of traditional forest management in southern Moravia: A history of the past 700 years. *Forest Ecology and Management* 331: 104-115. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2014.07.032> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	30	30	30

[8] Jamrichová E., Szabó P., Hédli R., Kuneš P., Bobek P. & Pelánková B. (2013) Continuity and change in the vegetation of a Central European oakwood. *Holocene* 23: 46-56. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959683612450200> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	25	20	25

[9] Szabó P. (2023) The Horka litter raking incident: On foresters and peasants in nineteenth-century Moravia. *Environment and History* 29: 323-343. <https://doi.org/10.3197/096734021X16245313029958> [Q2 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	100	100	100

[10] Szabó P., Diniz É. S. & Houška J. (2024) Traditional agroforestry on forested land: a comprehensive analysis of its distribution pattern in the 19th century. *Agroforestry Systems* 98: 115-127. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-023-00894-4> [Q2 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	70	75	80

[11] Vild O., Šipoš J., Szabó P., Macek M., Chudomelová M., Kopecký M., Suchánková S., Houška J., Kotačka M. & Hédli R (2018) Legacy of historical litter raking in temperate forest plant communities. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 29: 596-606. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.12642> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	10	20	20

[12] Kolář T., Dobrovolný P., Szabó P., Mikita T., Kyncl T., Kyncl J., Sochová I. & Rybníček M. (2021) Wood species utilization for timber constructions in the Czech lands over the period 1400-1900. *Dendrochronologia* 70: 125900. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dendro.2021.125900> [Q1AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	15	20	20

[13] Szabó P., Dobrovolný P., Kolář T., Rybníček M., Kyncl J. & Kyncl T. (2025) Local timber dominated pre-industrial construction: Insights from archival and dendrochronological data. *Dendrochronologia* 91: 126337. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dendro.2025.126337> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	80	75	80

[14] Kolář T., Dobrovolný P., Szabó P., Mikita T., Kyncl T., Kyncl J., Sochová I., Flídr A., Merta D. & Rybníček M. (2022) Effects of social and climatic factors on building activity in the Czech lands between 1450 and 1950: a dendrochronological analysis. *Journal of Quaternary Science* 37: 123-132. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jqs.3381> [Q2 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	10	15	15

[15] Müllerová J., Hédli R. & Szabó P. (2015) Coppice abandonment and its implications for species diversity in forest vegetation. *Forest Ecology and Management* 343: 88-100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2015.02.003> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	30	30	30

[16] Szabó P., Gálová A., Jamrichová E., Šumberová K., Šipoš J. & Hédli R. (2017) Trends and events through seven centuries: the history of a wetland landscape in the Czech Republic. *Regional Environmental Change* 17: 501-514. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-016-1033-0> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	70	60	80

[17] Szabó P. (2020) Traditional woodland management, forest legislation, and modern nature conservation in east-central Europe. In *Conservation's Roots: Managing for Sustainability in Preindustrial Europe, 1100–1800*, ed. Dowling A. & Keyser R., pp. 304-326. Berghahn, New York & Oxford.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	100	100	100

[18] Kozdasová A., Galčanová Batista L., Hédli R. & **Szabó P.** (2024) Coppice reintroduction in the Czech Republic: extent, motivation and obstacles. *European Journal of Forest Research* 143: 305-317. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10342-023-01626-0> [Q1 AIS on WoS]

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
N/A	80	50	75