

## 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>	Political Science
<b>Applicant</b>	Mgr. Martin Jirušek, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Energy supplies as a factor in international relations: policy approaches, and implications

### Board members

**Chair**

**Members**

**prof. PhDr. Jan Holzer, Ph.D.** (FSS MU)  
**prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Kříž, Ph.D.** (FSS MU)  
**prof. PhDr. Ladislav Cabada, Ph.D.** (Metropolitan University Prague)  
**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Michael LaBelle** (Central European University)  
**doc. Mgr. Matúš Mišík, Ph.D.** (Comenius University in Bratislava)

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

The Habilitation Board appointed by the Scientific Council of FSS MU has studied the documents submitted for the habilitation procedure of Dr. Martin Jirušek, including his habilitation thesis, the three review reports, and the evaluation of his public lecture. The members of the commission confirm that they had all the documents required by law.

Dr. Jirušek is a political scientist with a strong international research profile in the field of energy security, international relations, and foreign policy analysis. He is a graduate of Masaryk University, where he completed his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral studies in International Territorial Studies.

Dr. Jirušek has also broadened the scope of his research in recent years towards energy transition and critical materials, showing the applicability of his analytical framework to new domains of global energy politics. This demonstrates his capacity for intellectual development and his ability to keep his research relevant in the rapidly changing international context.

The habilitant has published as an author or a co-author 9 peer-reviewed texts in the WoS database (in case of co-authorship, he is listed as the first author for 5 of them) and 6 texts in the Scopus database, including articles in such respected platforms as Post-Soviet Affairs and Energy Policy (both WoS Q1). He also has 5 professional books, 1 edited volume, and three chapters in books, including in respectable publishing houses (Palgrave Macmillan). His work is regularly cited, as evidenced by 130 citations in international databases.

He is an active member of the scholarly community. He serves as Executive Editor of the Czech Journal of Political Science / Politologický časopis, one of the leading peer-reviewed journals in the field in Central Europe.

Dr. Jirušek has represented Masaryk University at many international conferences, requested lectures, and teaching visits (e.g., UACES and ECPR conferences, University of London, Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Ural Federal University in Yekaterinburg, University of Tulsa – Oklahoma, Diplomatische Akademie Vienna, Notre Dame of Maryland University), and has been active in Erasmus+ exchanges. He also completed a 10-month lasted Fullbright Scholarship for Researchers at Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University (USA).

All these activities confirm his deep integration into the international academic environment.

Dr. Jirušek has also repeatedly participated in the preparation of documents with application overlaps and research reports of a strategic nature.

Through these activities, Dr. Jirušek has established himself as a respected scholar in the European network of energy policy experts. His contributions are frequently cited, and he has been invited to contribute to both academic debates and policy-oriented workshops. His intellectual profile thus combines rigorous theoretical research with practical policy relevance.

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

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

Dr. Jirušek is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies and at the International Institute of Political Science of Masaryk University, where he has worked since 2012 in various research and teaching capacities. Since 2017, he has held a permanent position as Assistant Professor.

Dr. Jirušek has been teaching at the Department of International Relations and European Studies at FSS MU, where he offers courses on energy security, international relations theory, and European politics. His teaching portfolio is diverse and covers both Czech- and English-taught courses.

In Autumn 2025 he taught, among others, the courses Academic Skills Review, Current Issues of World Politics, Czech Foreign Policy, Geopolitics: Theory and Reality, and U.S. Energy Policy: Development and Challenges. In Spring 2025 he taught Energy Security of the Czech Republic, Energy and Geopolitics: Trends and Topics, and Energy in the Region: Czech Republic and its Neighbours.

He has supervised bachelor's and master's theses and is involved in mentoring doctoral students. His teaching portfolio is fully consistent with his research specialization, ensuring that his students benefit directly from his scholarly expertise.

Last but not least, he is also the co-author of three pedagogical works.

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



## **Habilitation thesis evaluation**

His cumulative habilitation thesis with title "Energy Supplies as a Factor in International Relations: Policy Approaches and Implications" is based on a coherent set of six peer-reviewed publications, including:

1. VLČEK, Tomáš and Martin JIRUŠEK. Research Design. In: VLČEK, Tomáš and Martin JIRUŠEK. Russian Oil Enterprises in Europe: Investments and Regional Influence. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, ISBN 978-3-030-19838-1, pp. 23–51. Dostupné z: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-19839-8>
2. JIRUŠEK, Martin and Petra KUCHYŇKOVÁ. The Conduct of Gazprom in Central and Eastern Europe: A Tool of the Kremlin, or Just an Adaptable Player? East European Politics and Societies. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2018, vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 818–844. ISSN 0888-3254. Dostupné z: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0888325417745128>
3. JIRUŠEK, Martin, Tomáš VLČEK and James HENDERSON. Russia's energy relations in Southeastern Europe: an analysis of motives in Bulgaria and Greece. Post-Soviet Affairs. Abingdon: Taylor & Francis Group, 2017, vol. 33, no. 5, pp. 335–355. ISSN 1060-586X. Dostupné z: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1060586X.2017.1341256>
4. JIRUŠEK, Martin, Tomáš VLČEK and James HENDERSON. Same but different: Rosatom as the Kremlin's upcoming leverage? Journal of Contemporary European Studies. Abingdon: Routledge Journals, Taylor & Francis, 2024, pp. 1242–1258. ISSN 1478-2804. Dostupné z: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14782804.2024.2348159>
5. JIRUŠEK, Martin. The attitude of the Visegrad Group Countries towards Russian Infrastructural Projects in the gas sector. Energy Policy. Oxford: Elsevier Science, 2020, vol. 139, April, pp. 1–10. ISSN 0301-4215. Dostupné z: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2020.111340>
6. JIRUŠEK, Martin, Petra KUCHYŇKOVÁ and Tomáš VLČEK. Business as Usual or Geopolitical Games? Russian Activities in Energy Sector of the Czech Republic. In: HOLZER, Jan and Miroslav MAREŠ. Czech Security Dilemma. Russia as a Friend or Enemy? Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, pp. 117–150. New Security Challenges. ISBN 978-3-030-20546-1. Dostupné z: [https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-20546-1\\_5](https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-20546-1_5)

The commission agreed to approach three prominent foreign reviewers specializing in the given research area: Margarita Balmaceda, Ph.D., Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations (School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University, New Jersey, USA); prof. Kacper Szulecki (Norwegian Institute of Intl Affairs, Oslo, Norway); and prof. PhDr. Alexander Duleba, CSc. (University of Prešov, former member of Scientific Council of FSS MU).

All three reviewers evaluated the thesis very positively, underlining its originality, depth, and contribution to both theory and empirical research. They emphasized the analytical innovation of Jirušek's conceptual model for assessing the weaponization of energy, which translates a contested metaphor into a clear set of operational indicators. The ability to apply this model systematically across oil, gas, and nuclear energy sectors is regarded as a substantial intellectual achievement. The reviewers praised the author's methodological sophistication, particularly his careful case selection, use of structured interviews, and comparative reach across eighteen European countries.

Prof. Szulecki stressed that the work is theoretically well-grounded, firmly anchored in realist international relations theory but at the same time open to dialogue with political economy and energy studies. He highlighted its relevance for ongoing scholarly debates and its applicability to the study of other strategic commodities such as rare earths.

Prof. Balmaceda appreciated the empirical richness of the research, based on extensive fieldwork and local knowledge, as well as the ability to situate findings within broader European and global energy politics. She regarded the thesis as a benchmark study in the field of energy and international relations, combining rigor with clear policy relevance.

Prof. Duleba underscored the policy significance of Jirušek's findings, particularly for Central and Eastern Europe, where the issues of dependency, diversification, and vulnerability remain central to both domestic and EU-level debates. He noted that the model's clarity allows policymakers as well as scholars to better evaluate the politicization of energy supplies.

The reviewers' critical comments were relatively minor and do not undermine the overall excellence of the work. They suggested stronger engagement with some local-language scholarship, further reflection on competing theoretical perspectives beyond realism, and a more systematic assessment of alternative explanatory variables in certain case studies. These are seen as avenues for future research rather than shortcomings of the habilitation itself.

In sum, the habilitation thesis demonstrates Dr. Jirušek's maturity as an independent scholar, his ability to combine theory and empirics in a highly productive way, and his role as a visible contributor to international debates on energy politics. The board concludes that the thesis makes a substantial and lasting contribution to political science.

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

#### **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 Political Science.

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

prof. PhDr. Jan Holzer, Ph.D.

