

## PUBLIC LECTURE EVALUATION

### Masaryk University

#### Faculty

Faculty of Social Studies

#### Procedure field

Media Studies and Journalism

#### Applicant

Mgr. et Mgr. Katarína Šipulová, Ph.D.

#### Lecture date

19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 1:30 p.m.

#### Lecture topic

The Twilight of Resilience: Theoretical and Practical Limits of Judicial Resistance to Democratic Backsliding

#### Persons present

(number)

17

#### Designated evaluators

(board members)

prof. JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Mareš, Ph.D.

doc. PhDr. Markéta Pitrová, Ph.D.

prof. PhDr. Darina Malova, CSc. (online)

prof. JUDr. PhDr. Jan Wintr, Ph.D.

Katarína Šipulová described the presented topic as one of her “core” research interests. She introduces the lecture with a quotation from William O. Douglas related to oppression. She divides the lecture into four main parts: judges at the centre of democratic backsliding; judicial resistance as a concept; the limits of judicial resistance; and future challenges. She described the so-called “Autocrat’s Playbook” as focused on the institutions and situations of courts under pressure. The new conceptualisation of the judicial resistance was one of the most original parts of the lecture. The discussion about the limits of judicial resistance was very valuable. Three topical problems of resistance were identified: the explicitly unconstitutional nature of the resistance technique, the dubious effects of the failure/unwillingness to resist, and resistance to re-democratisation. Theoretical and pragmatic implications were analysed. As part of the conclusion, three questions were asked: the difference between resistance and resilience; what happens when there is no visible resistance, or when resistance fails; and cultural subservience to the state.

The discussion after the lecture covered topics such as improving judicial resilience (including culture), changing the mindset to value thinking in the judicial sphere (Šipulová used recent Slovak developments as an example in her answer), judges' role in authoritarianism, on the other hand, with their position as “democratic guardians”, geographical scope of research, research methods, normative perceptions of resilience, example of proxies (Romanian judges), etc. All questions were answered comprehensively.

Katarína Šipulová demonstrates her pedagogical skills and her capacity to disseminate expert knowledge. She can elaborate on and reason through original analytical concepts related to judicial resistance that are helpful to political science. Her excellent presentation and rhetorical skills are highly evaluated. She has reacted immediately and with deep expert knowledge to

all questions. Her presentation fulfilled high academic standards. Personal involvement in the topic is a significant benefit for Katarína Šipulová.

## Conclusion

The lecture delivered by Mgr. et Mgr. Katarína Šipulová, Ph.D., entitled *The Twilight of Resilience: Theoretical and Practical Limits of Judicial Resistance to Democratic Backsliding* and delivered as part of the habilitation procedure, **demonstrated** sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Political Science.

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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