

HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	Political Science
Applicant	Mgr. et Mgr. Katarína Šipulová, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Judicial Studies Institute, Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science – Faculty of Law, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Judges as Actors of Democratic Resilience

Board members

Chair

Members

prof. JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Mareš, Ph.D. (FSS MU)
doc. PhDr. Markéta Pitrová, Ph.D. (FSS MU)
prof. PhDr. Darina Malová, CSc. (Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University in Bratislava)
prof. JUDr. PhDr. Jan Wintr, Ph.D. (Faculty of Law, Charles University)
Prof. Dr. Mariana Llanos (University of Erfurt a German Institute for Global and Area Studies)

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

The habilitation board highly appreciates Katarína Šipulová's scholarly qualifications. She is a leading expert in the study of the interaction of courts with various dimensions of justice and politics, including judicial independence, judicial self-government, political backlash and pressure on courts, transitional justice, and democratization (with particular focus on Central and Eastern European regimes). Her research interests have recently focused on informal judicial institutions and the role of networks in shaping the rule of law and socio-economic outcomes. All of these topics are important for understanding the political significance of courts and judges, and their research is essential for both political science and legal science. In this field of intersections between two scientific disciplines, Katarína Šipulová has gained international recognition as a leading expert.

She studied at Masaryk University and received a master's degree in law and European studies. She completed her prestigious education at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford, where she earned an MSt. She completed her doctoral education in 2017 at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, with the dissertation "Externalities in Transitional Justice Decisions: The European Union and Transitional Justice Processes in Post-Communist Countries."

She has long-term research experience, first as a post-doc and since 2021 as head of the Judicial Studies Institute and since 2023 as assistant professor at the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science, Faculty of Law, MU. She also has practitioner experience, having served as Head of the Department of Analytics and Comparative Law at the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic from 2013 to 2016. She also worked as a consultant for the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic and for the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.

CON awarded her – Best Paper Award 2024 for Comparative Court-Packing (with David Kosař) and MUNI Scientist 2023 Award for excellence and significant achievements in research (for the publication Judicial Self-Governance Index: Towards better understanding of the role of judges in governing the judiciary).

Katarína Šipulová has a significant and convincing publishing record, including Q1 publications in WoS. She has recently had 12 records in the Web of Science. She co-authored (with D. Kosař, J. Petrov, H. Smekal, L. Vyhnánek and J. Janovský) the book “Domestic Judicial Treatment of European Court of Human Rights – Beyond Compliance (Routledge 2020). She has written and co-written numerous publications, and she has demonstrated her capability in both individual and collaborative research. Other authors often cite her publications. Katarína Šipulová’s H Index in the WoS is currently 6.

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

Katarína Šipulová has over 14 years of pedagogical experience at Masaryk University, both at the Faculty of Social Sciences and at the Faculty of Law. Recently, she has been teaching several crucial courses in Czech and English at these faculties, for example, Courts and Judges, EU Law and European System of Human Rights Protection, or Transitional Justice and Democratization. She supervised 9 bachelor's and 2 master's theses that were successfully defended.

She is also active in professional education, as evidenced by numerous lectures for judges from various regional courts. She popularizes her scientific knowledge in the media, including comments for the Czech TV or the Czech Press Agency. Policy papers she published in Oxford Global Society and the International Association of Constitutional Law Blog. It also participates in public debates, thereby contributing to the university's societal role.

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

The habilitation board received three opponent reviews of the dissertation, and it agrees with their evaluations and conclusions. These reports were written by Prof. Dr. Anne Sanders

(Bielefeld University), dr. Sophie Turenne (University of Cambridge) and Prof. Dr. Silvia v. Steinsdorff (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). All three reviews contain a highly positive assessment of the dissertation, as the recognition of significant advances in understanding of the judiciary's role in democratic resilience, the engagement with multiple approaches and levels of analysis, and building a holistic model of judges as actors of democratisation and de-democratisation. The Board sees a substantial contribution in the work's identification and explanation of the analysed judicial activities in the political sphere and appreciates the author's political-scientific approach to the real political role of judicial institutions.

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: 25th November 2025

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

