

HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

Masaryk University

Applicant

Dr. rer. agr. Christian Kimmich

Habilitation thesis

Shared expectations and connected games in economic resource governance

Reviewer

Prof. Dr. sc. agr. Volker Beckmann

Reviewer's home unit, institution

Department of Economics and Business Studies
Faculty of Law and Economics
University of Greifswald

The habilitation thesis submitted by Dr. Christian Kimmich is based on seven published journal articles, which are framed by a thesis commentary including Introduction, Literature Review, Contributions, Discussion, and Conclusion. The articles span a period of 8 years, from 2016 to 2022. All papers were written in co-authorship and are not related to the candidate's PhD. In five papers, Dr. Kimmich was the first and lead author; in two publications, he was the second author. The self-stated candidate's contributions to the publication range from 90% to 15%, with an average contribution of 56%. When reading the papers, however, the contributions of Dr. Kimmich are clearly recognizable and in all cases significant. The papers were published in well-respected and influential academic journals across a diversity of fields in public economics, e.g., energy, water, utilities, forestry, and sustainability. Three journals are rated Q1, two Q2, and two Q3 (according to JCR 2025). The types of articles range from mainly research articles to theoretical/conceptual contributions and review papers. The seven articles have been cited frequently, with a total of 186 citations (according to Google Scholar), yielding an average of about 27 citations per article. This clearly indicates that Dr. Kimmich's scientific work is well-received in the academic community.

The thesis's topics are highly relevant to public economics. Expectations are at the core of human behavior, and Dr. Kimmich's work shows that the formation and consequences of shared expectations are important across a diverse range of research areas, including supply chain governance and infrastructure coordination. In particular, Dr. Kimmich's contributions to the theory of connected games or networks of action situations must be considered highly original and very significant. Many areas of public policy are interlinked, and the advancement of theoretical reflection, economic modeling, and empirical investigations is much needed. The contributions of Dr. Kimmich are fundamental to this line of research.

Thus, the collection of articles fulfils all quality criteria for a habilitation thesis.

The thesis commentary offers, over 37 pages, a well-structured and well-written introduction and overview of the collection of articles, and discusses their contribution in light the international literature and the most recent publications. It also reveals that the thesis is part of a focused research strategy and comprehensive concept by Dr. Kimmich, which combines deep reflection of three theoretical literatures, such as expectation in decision making,

connected games, and polycentricity theory, with a diversity of practical and public policy-relevant rigorous analysis of empirical cases. The theoretical bases and the research methodology are well elaborated. The findings and the overall scientific contributions are made crystal clear. Finally, the limitations and the desirable course of further research are well outlined as well.

Without a doubt, the commentary also fulfils all quality criteria for a habilitation thesis.

Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence:

Shared expectations are important in many action situations, in particular, coordination games. Can you please reflect on the possibilities and limitations of public policy in shaping or influencing shared expectations?

Archetype analysis has been used to classify action-situations and 2-2 games. Would it make sense to apply archetype analyses to shared expectations as well? If yes, how could this look like? If not, why not?

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled *Shared expectations and connected games in economic resource governance* by Dr. rer. agr. Christian Kimmich **fulfils** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Public Economics.

Date: 22.04.2026

Signature: