

HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Economics and Administration
Procedure field	Public Economics
Applicant	Dr. rer. agr. Christian Kimmich
Applicant's home unit, institution	Department of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Shared expectations and connected games in economic resource governance

Board members

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Department of Public Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University

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Department of Regional Development and Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Economic Studies, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University Ústí nad Labem
Prof. Dr. Björn Vollan
School of Business and Economics, Phillips University of Marburg

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

The applicant reports that he published 21 articles in scholarly journals listed in the WoS database, some of them in top ranked journals (on April 22, 2026, the WoS database registered 25 his publications). From this point of view his publication activity exceeds the requirements for the promotion. The applicant reports 460 citations in the WoS database, the WoS system already registers (April 22, 2026) total 690 citations on his works (641 without self-citations).

The research activities of the applicant focus on institutional, energy and resource economics, with the specific interest on the applied empirical research in economics of infrastructure regulation and the public economics of common pool resources and infrastructure governance. His core empirical methods include field experiments, surveys, econometric models and applied game-theoretic models. He collected a lot of international experience and supervised empirical research in many countries in Europe and Asia. The number of citations suggests that his results influenced many subsequent publications.

The applicant served / serves as the investigator in several projects, including projects funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programs. He served as the principal investigator in several national research projects (like Interdisciplinary connectivity: Understanding and managing complex systems using connectivity science).

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

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

The teaching experience of the applicant are heavily influenced by his research agenda. His regular teaching at Masaryk University started in 2017, before this he delivered the course Introduction and Principles of Sustainability at University of Zurich in 2014. The key course delivered by him at the Masaryk University is Institutional and Resource Economics. This course introduces students to economic, sociological, and political approaches to institutions, with a focus on economic thought, including critical reflection and an introduction to multiple analytical approaches.

The applicant published two textbook texts (including textbook sub-chapters), two compilations and educational texts and presentations and six popular science texts.

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

Habilitation thesis evaluation

The habilitation thesis is written in the form of the commented collection of already published papers, and the text 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%. 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 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.

All three reviews are highly positive. The reviewers underline several following facts. When reading the papers, the contributions of Dr. Kimmich are clearly recognizable and in all cases significant. The thesis's topics are highly relevant to public economics. The selection of paper reflects a strong and coherent focus on environmental governance and sustainability, with several contributions in well-regarded interdisciplinary journals, though with a primary orientation outside the standard field journals in public or environmental economics. The work is unified by a strong interdisciplinary approach and a consistent emphasis on societally relevant questions. The thesis makes a coherent and multifaceted contribution to the study of expectations and interdependent decision-making in environmental and economic governance. His papers deliver a substantial contribution to public economics. He advances polycentric theory by showcasing interdependencies in connected games and respective effectiveness and efficiency given the particular properties of the resource. He is able to tackle

coordination problems and spillover effect as well as alterations to equilibrium outcomes in polycentric systems.

One minor comment is formulated as follows: "From the perspective of current standards in empirical economics, some limitations can nevertheless be noted, though these should be interpreted in light of the interdisciplinary nature of the work. Two studies that rely on experimental designs (Kimmich and Fischbacher 2016; Kimmich et al. 2019) are based on relatively small samples, which is understandable in field settings but may limit statistical power. These studies also examine a relatively large number of hypotheses, raising potential concerns related to multiple hypothesis testing, and the within-subject design in Kimmich et al. (2019) may be somewhat sensitive to demand effects."

Habilitation thesis reviewers:

- doc. Ing. Ondřej Krčál, Ph.D. (Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University)
- Prof. Dr. Martina Padmanabhan (Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences, University of Passau)
- Prof. Dr. sc. agr. Volker Beckmann (Faculty of Law and Economics, University of Greifswald)

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

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 Economics and Administration of Masaryk University to



appoint the applicant associate professor of Public Economics.



terminate the procedure.

Date: 29. 04. 2026

Juraj Nemec

signature

Jana Soukopová

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Ilona M. Otto

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Lenka Slavníková

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signature

Björn Vollan

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