

## HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

<b>Masaryk University</b>	
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Economics and Administration
<b>Procedure field</b>	Economics
<b>Applicant</b>	Ing. Miloš Fišar, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Department of Public Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Understanding Human Behavior in Economic Contexts: Experimental Evidence on Social Preferences and Decision-Making

### Board members

#### Chair

**prof. PhDr. Michal Bauer, Ph.D., DSc.**

CERGE-EI and Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

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Faculty of Business Administration, Prague University of Economics and Business

**doc. Ing. Ondřej Krčál, Ph.D.**

Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University

**Prof. Vittorio Pelligra, PhD**

Department of Economics and Business, University of Cagliari

**Assoc. Prof. Melis Kartal, Ph.D.**

Department of Economics, Vienna University of Economics and Business

### Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly qualifications

Dr. Fišar is an experimental economist who studies different topics in behavioural economics and public economics. More specifically, most of his research revolves around topics related to social preferences, unethical behaviour, tax compliance or charitable giving. He completed his PhD in 2018 at Masaryk University, worked for three years as a post-doctoral researcher at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Since 2023 he is Assistant Professor at the Masaryk University.

**Research output.** Dr. Fišar has published 7 academic articles in international journals listed in the WoS database and 1 article listed in Scopus. His main publications are: 1 paper in *Management Science* (Q1), 1 paper in the *Journal of Economic Psychology* (Q1 according to AIS) and two papers published in the *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization* (Q1). MS is a top field journal, JoEP and JEBO are both very good field journals. In the paper published in MS, he (together with co-authors) tests reproducibility of results published in the *Management Science*. The paper shows that disclosure policies significantly enhanced reproducibility of scientific results, which is an important finding for the profession. The other three papers are included in his dissertation. All of them represent interesting contributions to the literature and are briefly described below.

**Citations and awards.** Dr. Fišar's work has so far attracted 54 citations in journals listed in WoS or in Scopus. Number of citations according to google.scholar is 127. These is a good citation record, given the stage of his academic career. His publications received awards from the two universities that he has worked at: (i) Dean's award for the best publication at the Masaryk University (in 2023) and (ii) several recognitions/awards at the University of Vienna for high-quality publications.

Dr. Fišar regularly presents his work at international conferences. He has also been invited to present at several research seminars (e.g., University of Gothenburg or Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

**Network and international research visits.** Dr. Fišar has established a wide network of collaborators who are both international and local researchers. Here are some examples: Ben Greiner (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Luca Corazzini (University of Milan), Christopher Huber (Aalto University) or Tomas Reggiani (Cardiff Uni). His international experience can also be seen from the fact that he has worked for three years as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Vienna and he was a visiting scholar at Ca'Foscari University of Venice and at University of Canterbury in New Zealand (6 months). Thus, his international collaborations and contacts can be seen as an important asset for him and Masaryk University.

**Grants.** Dr. Fišar has been active and relatively successful in attracting funding for his research. In particular, he is currently PI of one standard GACR grant and was one of the investigators of two earlier GACR grants.

**Professional service.** Dr. Fišar provides valuable service to the profession. First, he serves as the Data Editor in the Management Science journal for over four years. MS is a leading journal in management and behavioral economics, and this position and other activities reflect his deep commitment to improve transparency and replicability of research findings in social sciences. This is highly applaudable effort, because it requires significant time commitment and creates externalities for the profession. Second, he is a member of the grant evaluation committee at Masaryk University. Third, he is a member of the organizing committee for the upcoming 2025 European Meeting of the Economic Science Association, a major international conference in experimental economics, and he has long been one of the co-organizers of Young economists' meeting in Brno.

**Overall assessment.** Dr. Fišar has consistently demonstrated his ability to regularly publish in highly-ranked international field journals. In addition to his published work, Dr. Fišar has several projects in the pipeline that seem of similar potential, indicating that he will continue to be productive. The research topics that he studies are highly relevant, actively studied by leading researchers, and his work generates meaningful policy implications. For local standards, Dr. Fišar has unusual level international experience, in terms of his past work experience, network of collaborators, conference participation or engagement in international initiatives helping to improve transparency of research.

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

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

The applicant's pedagogical work is centered on public economics, experimental economics, and the methodology of science. He has extensive teaching experience across all academic levels—bachelor's, master's, and doctoral studies—at multiple institutions. At Masaryk University, he has regularly taught courses in Public Choice, Public Economics, and Introduction to Experimental and Behavioral Economics. At the Vienna University of Economics and Business, his teaching portfolio included Managerial Economics and Experimental Methods in Business and Economics. Additionally, he was invited to teach a doctoral-level course on Replicability and Reproducibility at Sapienza University in Rome and the CORE course on Behavioral Public Policy at Masaryk University. He has also served on several state examination boards, including doctoral boards at the University of Cagliari and the University of Economics in Bratislava. Over his career, he has supervised 10 bachelor's theses and 8 diploma theses.

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

### **Habilitation thesis evaluation**

The thesis comprises three scientific articles, unified by their methodological approach and thematic focus. All three articles employ experimental methods, utilizing either online or laboratory experiments. The unifying theme is the exploration of the determinants and correlates of prosocial behaviors, such as sharing, cooperation, and trust.

Chapter 1 is based on a set of online experiments about dictator giving under loss framing, and it aims to reconcile contrasting findings of earlier experiments on this topic. Dr. Fišar and co-authors show that while different loss framings generate the same intensity of emotional responses, they lead to distinct behavioral responses that are consistent with the "do-no-harm" principle. This principle reflects individuals' reluctance to impose harm on others, even when it benefits them personally. This chapter also demonstrates Dr. Fišar's emphasis on documenting robustness of the observed findings, by showing that the findings hold regardless of whether the dictators earn their endowment or not. The study highlights the significant influence of framing on decisions.

Chapter 2 is motivated by literature on charitable donations that studies the role of intermediaries. In a lab and an online experiment, he examines how donors' trust and willingness to coordinate charitable contributions through intermediaries are influenced by two factors: the level of discretion intermediaries have in allocating funds and the presence of overhead costs. The authors find that when intermediaries are required to allocate a high percentage of funds to public goods donations, coordination, and public goods funding success are boosted, whereas overhead costs significantly reduce donors' willingness to transfer funds to intermediaries. The study highlights the need of clear communication of NGO's need for overhead costs to donors, so that donors do not shy away from contributing.

Chapter 3 revisits the question whether hormonal fluctuations during the menstrual cycle affect economic decision-making. Specifically, it tests whether ovulatory shifts, characterized by hormonal changes, affect behaviors such as risk-taking, rule violations, and exploratory decision-making. The results reveal no significant behavioral differences across menstrual cycle phases. Although there is some uncertainty, given that the sample size is not large, these findings challenge the ovulatory shift hypothesis, which posits behavioral changes aligned with evolutionary theories about reproductive strategies.

The dissertation has been reviewed by four opponents, all experts in experimental economics and working on related topics: (i) Assoc. Prof. Gergely Horvath (Duke Kunshan University) (ii)

Prof. Marcela Ibanez (University of Gottingen). (iii) Assoc. Prof. Jaromír Kovářík (University of Basque Country), (iv) Assoc. Prof. Tomáš Želinský (Technical University of Košice and Durham University). They all are positive about Dr. Fišar's work and show engagement with his work by providing thoughtful comments and suggestions. Importantly, all of them conclude that his habilitation thesis satisfies the requirements of habilitation thesis. Below we include their overall assessments:

- **Gergely Horváth:** „Overall, the three chapters present well-designed experiments that advance our understanding of human behavior in a wide-range of contexts. The experimental protocols are clearly documented, following the standards in the profession. There is good care taken to ensure the replicability of the experiments and the data analysis.“
- **Marcela Ibanez:** “The thesis demonstrates rigorous scientific work and expertise in the topic and amply fulfils the criteria for habilitation.”
- **Jaromír Kovářík:** „ I would like to make clear from the outset that I believe Miloš Fišar's habilitation thesis adheres to international standards for the position he seeks. ....Miloš Fišar's habilitation thesis exemplifies rigorous and impactful research, addressing complex behavioural phenomena through robust experimental methods. It offers valuable contributions to understanding prosocial behaviours and challenges prevailing assumptions about hormonal influences on decision-making, underscoring its relevance and applicability in both academic and policy contexts.
- **Tomáš Želinský:** „This research makes a substantial contribution to behavioural economics by deepening our understanding of how human decision-making is shaped by a combination of contextual, psychological, and biological factors.“

Overall, the committee believes that the habilitation thesis demonstrates high-quality research, as evidenced by their publication in respected international journals. The quality of the chapters reflects that the applicant is a mature and competitive researcher in his field. It also illuminates his openness to ideas from other disciplines, while using rigorous economic methods.

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

☐ terminate the procedure.

Date: 6. 2. 2025

prof. PhDr. Michal Bauer, Ph.D., DSc.

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