

HABILITATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Economics and Administration
Procedure field	Economics
Applicant	Luca Fumarco
Applicant's home unit, institution	Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Demographic Characteristics as Drivers of Inequality

Board members

Chair

prof. Ing. Zdeněk Tomeš, Ph.D.

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

Members

doc. Ing. Josef Montag, Ph.D.

Department of Economics and Empirical Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, Charles University

Prof. Dr. Matteo Picchio

Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Marche Polytechnic University

Prof. Ian Burn, Ph.D.

School of Management, Faculty of Humanities and Social Studies, University of Liverpool

Prof. Ing. Štěpán Jurajda, Ph.D., DSc.

Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education, Charles University; Economic Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

The applicant specializes in applied microeconomics, with a focus on labour, health, and education economics. He has extensive experience in conducting large field experiments, and his research centres on topics such as discrimination in markets and the effects of within-cohort age differences. He has published his work in leading international journals, including the *American Journal of Health Economics*, *The Stata Journal*, and *Oxford Economic Papers*. He has built a broad portfolio of international co-authors from both European and U.S. universities, and his work has generated a significant number of citations in reputable journals, creating a substantial impact on the academic community. His international visibility and network of co-authors have been strengthened by numerous long-term academic stays at research institutions in both Europe and the United States.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic 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 has been a regular instructor of courses in Labour Economics and Intermediate Economics. He has taught these courses regularly at Masaryk University and occasionally at foreign universities. In addition, he has supervised both bachelor's and master's theses at Masaryk University. Although the number of supervised theses is below the recommended threshold, the committee agrees that the applicant's achievements in other pedagogical areas fully compensate for this. He has been also actively involved in the PhD training of doctoral students at Masaryk University. Beyond his strictly pedagogical activities, he has also been active in the popularization of science for both the general and specialized public. He has produced a series of popularization articles that have attracted attention in respected media outlets.

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

Luca Fumarco's habilitation thesis examines how demographic characteristics influence inequality, focusing on discrimination in access to mental health care and relative age effects among adolescents. Based on four published journal articles, the research uses rigorous empirical methods, including field experiments, instrumental variables, and large international datasets. The findings show evidence of intersectional discrimination in mental health services and persistent disadvantages for relatively younger students in social networks, well-being, and health. The evaluators assess the thesis very positively, highlighting the high quality of the publications, methodological rigor, policy relevance, and strong research output. While suggesting some directions for future research, they conclude that the work represents a substantial contribution to the empirical study of inequality

Habilitation thesis reviewers:

- Andrew E. Clark, Ph.D. (Paris School of Economics)
- Prof. Nabanita Datta Gupta, PhD (School of Business and Social Sciences, Aarhus University)
- Prof. Conchita D'Ambrosio, Ph.D. (Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, University of Luxembourg)

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: 7.2. 2026

prof. Ing. Zdeněk Tomeš, Ph.D.

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