

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Procedure field	General and diachronic linguistics
Applicant	doc. PhDr. Bc. Ondřej Šefčík, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
<u>Board members</u>	
Chair	prof. RNDr. Václav Blažek, CSc. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i>
Members	Prof. Dr. Jadranka Gvozdanović <i>Univerzita Heidelberg</i> Prof. Dr. Michael Janda <i>University of Münster</i> Prof. Dr. Martin Kümmel <i>University of Jena</i> Prof. Dr. Phill. Birgit Anette Rasmussen Olsen <i>University of Copenhagen</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Assoc. Prof. Ondřej Šefčík is an internationally recognised expert in several linguistic disciplines and a respected author with extensive publications in journals, volumes and monographs.

In 1992-1997 Ondřej Šefčík successfully completed a five-year Master's degree in Czech language and literature and Czech history at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, but from the beginning his interest was attracted to Indo-European studies. Under the supervision of Václav Blažek he wrote and defended his master's thesis *Předslavanská toponymie českých zemí (Pre-Slavic Toponymics of the Czech Lands)* (in 1997), under the supervision of prof. Adolf Erhart his Ph.D. thesis *Syllable, root and reduplication in Old Indo-Aryan* (2001). Among other teachers who influenced him in his linguistic career, we should mention Professor Marie Krčmová, and Professors Vít Bubeník, Radoslav Večerka and Antonín Bartoněk. He submitted his habilitation thesis *The development of the Indo-European clusters plosive + t/s/dh* and received his Associate Professor degree in 2022. In the same year, he also received his B.A. in Classical Greek and Latin (he started his studies in 2019), and he continued his further studies in both languages to broaden his basis for further professional work.

Since 2001, he has been employed at the Department of General Linguistics and Baltic Studies of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk's University, and since 2004 he has been repeatedly appointed its head. In addition, he founded and led the Seminar of Japanese Studies and the Seminar of Vietnamese Studies until their independence. From 2004 to 2008, he also engaged in part-time collaboration with the Etymological Department of the Institute of the Czech Language of the Czech Academy of Sciences, contributing to the creation of entries for the monumental Etymological Dictionary of the Old Slavonic Language, which was published from 1989 to 2019.

The professional focus of Ondřej Šefčík's research interests encompasses a broad spectrum, ranging from theoretical phonology and morphology to Indo-European phonology and morphology, with a particular emphasis on Czech, Slavic, and Indo-Iranian phonology in general (with a focus on Old Indo-Aryan, Pāli, and Avestan). In addition to these areas of expertise, he also engages with etymology and the systematic history of Czech linguistics and Czech orthography. His linguistic orientation has led him towards both diachronic linguistics and structuralist methodology, which he has combined in his work into an analytical model based also on systems theory and metric spaces. Furthermore, he pays key attention to synchronic and diachronic alternations in phonology, which he considers to be a crucial source of information about the structure and development of phonological systems.

It is important to note that the author is responsible for two grammars of Indian languages. The first of these is the *Gramatický přehled sanskrtu (Grammatical Survey of Sanskrit)* and second *Pālijština: gramatika posvátného jazyka théravádského buddhismu (Pāli: Grammar of the Sacred Language of Theravada Buddhism)*, which were the first grammars of these languages to be published in Czech. His study *Preservation vs Lenition* was published by the specialist Indo-European publishing house Baar in Hamburg.

Assoc. Prof. Šefčík participated in the collective autorship of the *Nový encyklopedický slovník češtiny (New Encyclopedic Dictionary of Czech; main editors Petr Karlík, Marek Nekula and Jana Pleskalová; Lidové noviny 2017)*. His contributions included editing entries on phonology, historical linguistics and orthography, as well as authoring forty entries. His contribution to the entries of the three volumes of the Etymological Dictionary of the Old Slavonic Language (nos. 12-14) has already been mentioned.

Moreover, he is the author of two chapters in the historiographical work *Kapitoly z dějin české jazykovědné bohemistiky (2007, ed. Jana Pleskalová)*, namely on the history of Czech phonetics and phonology and the history of Czech orthography since 1800.

Among his published journal articles, we should mention in particular the papers published in journals registered in the WoS and Scopus databases (11 in total), namely his rather revolutionary model of IE ablaut published in *Indogermanische Forschungen* and the revised development of consonantal clusters in Common Slavic published in *Zeitschrift für Slawistik*, plus others in the journals *Journal of Indo-European Studies* and *Historische Sprachforschung*, and from the domestic journals *Slovo a slovesnost*. There are also 11 articles in journals registered by ERIH(+) databases, plus another 10 articles in journals outside these databases, book chapters (4), articles in conference proceedings, conference proceedings and festschrifts (25 items in total), and 51 encyclopaedic entries (in 4 publications).

Not insignificant is also his editorial work on conference proceedings, festschrifts and special issues of journals totaling 8. The total number of printed reviews, reports, surveys, educational and popularization activities, etc. is 22. Ondřej Šefčík was invited for 22 lectures, he has presented 31 conference contributions, plus 3 abstracts. The number of quotations in international databases is 47; the number of other quotations is 99.

Assoc. Prof. Šefčík is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Linguistica Brunensia*, and he was also co-editor of a special issue of *Slovo a slovesnost* devoted to Indo-European studies. He is regularly addressed as a reviewer by the editorial boards of both journals. He is a member of the Linguistic Association of the Czech Republic, where he served as the executive director for four years, vice-chairman for four years and chairman for eight years, and now as vice-chairman.

Ondřej Šefčík (co-)organised five international Indo-European conferences, three of them in Brno (the so-called Brno Colloquia) and two in Opava (Sound of Indo-European 2 and 3). The candidate has participated in several internships abroad (Potsdam, Poznań, Leiden) and regularly gives talks at foreign and domestic conferences, including the most important ones in the field. The foreign conferences participated by him were organized in the following states (in the alphabetical order): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, USA.

Let us mention at least five of them:

ICHL26 International Conference on Historical Linguistics 2023. Heidelberg, 2023.

6. GeSuS Kongress, Sektion 1 - Historische Linguistik, 5. - 7. April 2018, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier. 2018.

Arbeitstagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft „The lengthened grade in Indo-European“, Leiden, 29–31 July 2013. 2013.

XIV. Fachtagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft. "Etymology and the European Lexicon". Copenhagen, 7.–22. 9. 2012.

Seventh annual meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society at the Kansas University. Lawrence, Kansas, 25-27 August 2012.

From 2015 to 2019, the applicant served as a member of the Panel for Linguistics and Literary Science of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, and from 2016 to 2020 he was a member of the Committee of the Grant Agency of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of MU.

Assoc. Prof. Šefčík participated in the following grants and projects:

Analytic phonology of Sanskrit, 2010–2013, GAČR.

Nový encyklopedický slovník češtiny online, 2012–2016, GAČR.

History of Czech linguistics (bohemistics), 2003–2006, GAČR.

Praslovanština a rané etapy slovanských jazyků ve vztahu k sousedním etnikům v evropském areálu, 2004–2006, GAČR.

Tradice a perspektivy brněnské etymologické školy a další trendy slavistického etymologického bádání, 2007–2009, GAČR.

Teorie a empirie v slovanské diachronní jazykovědě, 2010–2012, Grantová agentura AV ČR.

In addition, he has received grants to support student research at FF MU from the Masaryk University (so-called specific research), every year since 2004 until today.

To summarize the candidate's scholarly activity, he successfully bridges linguistic theory and practice on the basis of several languages and several linguistic disciplines. He has a wide range of interests in theoretical linguistics (especially phonology and morphonology, but also algebraic linguistics, whose apparatus and metalanguage he has been able to apply effectively), Indo-European studies, Indo-Iranian studies, Slavistics and Bohemistics. In addition, he also deals with the history of these fields and the theory of orthography.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of General and diachronic linguistics.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Assoc. Prof. Šefčík began teaching at the Faculty of Arts of MU during his doctoral studies (in 1998), now he lectures mainly at the Institute of Linguistics and Baltic Studies of the Faculty of Arts of MU and teaches at all three levels of study, primarily in the fields of general linguistics (bachelor, master, Ph.D.), Baltic studies (bachelor, master) and Indo-European comparative linguistics (Ph.D.). His courses are also attended by students of other disciplines, mainly philology, but also archaeology, history and mathematics.

His courses include key courses in the curriculum of the disciplines, namely: theoretical Introduction to linguistics, Basics of phonology, Basics of morphology, Comparative Indo-European phonology and morphology, History of world and Czech linguistics. In addition, he has taught courses in Sanskrit, Avestan and Pāli, plus specialized seminars in reading and interpreting ancient Indian texts. He is also involved in several profile courses in the so-called general foundation courses offered to the wider university student body.

Assoc. Prof. Šefčík is the supervisor of the Bachelor's degree in General Linguistics program at Faculty of Arts of MU. As a supervisor, he has successfully supervised Bachelor's theses (22 defended to date) Master's theses (22 defended to date) and PhD theses (1 defended to date, 3 more are in progress), in addition to opposing an equal number of theses. He was also an external lecturer of Bohemistics for several years at the Silesian University in Opava.

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of General and diachronic linguistics.

Evaluation of the applicant as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure in a given field

Assoc. Prof. Šefčík is one of the leading Czech Indo-Europeanists and general linguists and is a respected linguist internationally. His main fields of interest include Indo-European studies, Indology, Baltic studies, Slavistics, Bohemistics and classical languages, and he focuses mainly on phonology, morphology and morphology, but also on the history of the field (especially the Czech national revival).

An important part of the professional activity is his editorial work. He has edited seven conference proceedings and festschrifts, is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Linguistica Brunensia* and was co-guest editor of *Slovo a slovesnost*.

Doc. Šefčík is a member of the Linguistic Association of Czech republic, a professional organization of Czech linguists. He was its secretary, vice-chairman and chairman of the local organization in Brno, and is now its vice-chairman.

His academic and organizational activities cannot be overlooked either, Ondřej Šefčík organized several conferences in Brno and Opava with international participation and great success. Besides, since 2004 he has been the head of the Institute of Linguistics and Baltistics of the Faculty of Arts of MU, repeatedly elected by his colleagues.

Associate Professor Šefčík has also been a member of the evaluation panel of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, has been asked to act as chairman and member of the accreditation committees of the National Accreditation Office, and works for the government of the Czech Republic as an evaluator of scientific activities in the field of philology.

Conclusion: The applicant **is** a respected and recognized scholarly figure in his/her field. The applicant **has** made a significant contribution to the development of his/her field. The applicant **constitutes** a leading figure in his/her field of scholarship or research.

Secret vote results

Voting took place: electronically

Number of board members		5
Number of votes cast		5
of which	in favour	5
	against	0

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 role as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure, the board hereby submits a proposal to the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University to **appoint the applicant professor** of General and diachronic linguistics.

In Brno on 16.04.2025

prof. RNDr. Václav Blažek, CSc.