

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Procedure field	Psychology
Applicant	Mgr. Vojtěch Juřík, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Virtual Simulations in Psychology: Evaluating Current Trends of Immersive Virtual Simulations Use in Psychological Research and Follow-up Applications
Board members	
Chair	prof. PhDr. Marek Blatný, DrSc. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i>
Members	Prof. Keith A. Hutchison, Ph.D. <i>Montana State University</i> Prof. I-Ping Wan, Ph.D. <i>National Chengchi University</i> doc. Mgr. Tomáš Apeltauer, Ph.D. <i>Vysoké učení technické v Brně</i> doc. PhDr. Martin Jelínek, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Dr. Juřík's publishing activity is above standard, not only in the Czech Republic but also internationally. He is the author or co-author of thirty-one original scientific studies in journals indexed in WoS, which have been cited 366 times, and his H-index according to WoS is currently 12. He is also the author or co-author of a number of other journal articles, conference proceedings, one book chapter, and one monograph. At the same time, he is the co-author of a professional methodology certified by the Ministry of Transport. In terms of content, these works deal with topics that Dr. Juřík has been focusing on for a long time, i.e., experimental cognitive psychology and psychological research methodology, especially in the context of immersive virtual reality and its use in psychological research and application practice. Dr. Juřík also regularly publishes the results of his work at international and domestic conferences (e.g., 19th European Congress of Psychology, 2025, Paphos, Cyprus; 18th Annual International Technology, Education and Development Conference 2024, Valencia, Spain, 20th European Conference on Eye Movements, 2019, Alicante, Spain, 28th International Cartographic Conference, 2017, Washington, USA) and has completed a number of internships in the Czech Republic and abroad (University of Regensburg, 2019, University of Ljubljana, 2019, Technische Universität Wien, 2018, etc.) related to his professional interests. He also helps organize domestic conferences (e.g., 10th International Conference on Language, Culture, and Mind: Celebrating Linguistic and Cultural Diversity, 2024; Kognice, and Artificial Life, 2018). He has also participated in thirteen grant-funded research projects, four of which he was the principal investigator or co-investigator for Masaryk University (e.g., TAČR TREND, 2023-2025; TAČR SIGMA, 2025-2028). He demonstrated his qualities as a researcher during his doctoral studies, when he was awarded the status of excellent doctoral student in 2016-2019. His popularization activities are also important; he is the author of a number of popular science articles and also appears on Czech Television and Czech Radio, where he introduces viewers and listeners to the possibilities of using virtual reality in psychotherapy. He represents the Faculty of Arts as a member of the Rector's Working Group for Space Research and Astronautics.

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

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

In addition to his scientific work and research, Dr. Juřík has also been involved in teaching since graduating. At the Institute of Psychology, he lectures on Research Practicum, Introduction to Psychology, Use of AI Tools in Psychology, Good Research Practices, Psychological Perspectives on Selected Global Challenges, Modern Technologies in Psychological Research, Psychology Constructs: Theory and Methodology, and leads seminars on Empirical Research Practicum and seminars on bachelor's and master's theses. He bases his teaching on his own extensive empirical research and uses published studies as teaching materials. He is a member of state examination boards for both bachelor's and master's degrees. He has supervised 28 bachelor's and 21 master's theses that have been successfully defended. He also consults on interdisciplinary theses (e.g., at the Faculty of Informatics). He is currently supervising one doctoral student. From 2020 to 2025, he served as the Erasmus+ program coordinator at the Institute of Psychology, and for the past seven years he has been the guarantor for RIV. At the Faculty of Arts, he also serves as an expert for internal analysis within the HR Award program. Dr. Juřík is also a guest speaker at other domestic universities (e.g., the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Charles University), where he introduces students to the use of virtual reality in psychology.

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

Habilitation thesis evaluation

Dr. Juřík's habilitation thesis *Virtual Simulations in Psychology: Evaluating Current Trends of Immersive Virtual Simulations Use in Psychological Research and Follow-up Applications* was positively evaluated by all opponents and recommended for further proceedings. The opponents particularly emphasized that the thesis deals with an extremely topical and methodologically significant topic of simulations in psychology, with a special emphasis on immersive virtual environments as a research and application tool. They appreciated the overall concept of the thesis, its accuracy, comprehensibility, and clear line of argumentation, in which the author guides the reader from mental simulations through physical simulations to virtual simulations that connect real human behavior with computer-generated environmental dynamics. They also appreciated the methodological approach, which combines theoretical analysis, synthesis, and critical evaluation of empirical studies. The empirical studies themselves, in which Dr. Juřík illustrates the use of immersive virtual simulations, make a significant contribution to the applied fields of psychological practice (the use of virtual simulations in teaching and education, in psychotherapy for the treatment of phobias, and in research into evacuation behavior). No critical comments were made on the work; all suggestions for discussion are rather questions aimed at further elaboration of Dr. Juřík's expert opinions.

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

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 habilitation thesis, the board hereby submits a proposal to the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University to **appoint the applicant associate professor** of Psychology.

In Brno on 16.02.2026

prof. PhDr. Marek Blatný, DrSc.