

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Procedure field	General and diachronic linguistics
Applicant	doc. PhDr. Mojmír Dočekal, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
Board members	
Chair	prof. RNDr. Václav Blažek, CSc. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i>
Members	Univ.-Prof. Dr. Hana Filip <i>Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf</i> prof. Franc Marušič <i>University of Nova Gorica</i> Prof. Dr. Roland Meyer <i>Humboldtova univerzita v Berlíně</i> prof. PhDr. Ludmila Veselovská, Dr. <i>Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Mojmír Dočekal graduated with a double-major master's degree in Czech Language and Literature and Philosophy from the Faculty of Arts at Masaryk University in Brno, where he earned his Mgr. title in 1999. His master's thesis, supervised by Prof. Klára Osolsobě, focused on the formal and computational analysis of reflexives in Czech (Algorithmic Description of the Functions of Formants se). His further interest in linguistics shifted toward theoretical and formal approaches to the semantics and syntax of natural language, inspired by attending lectures by Prof. Petr Karlík, under whose supervision he became an internal doctoral student in 1999. During his doctoral studies, he spent one semester each at the Institut für Slavistik, Universität Potsdam (1999) and the Institut für Slavistik, Universität Regensburg (2000). He completed his doctoral studies in Czech Language at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, in 2005 by defending his dissertation on the formal-semantic analysis of Czech anaphors; the key findings of this research were soon published in the academic monograph *Bound Variables in Czech* (Masaryk University, 2005).

During his doctoral studies, he attended courses both in the Czech Republic (Logic with Prof. Jan Štěpán, UPOL; Analytical Philosophy with Prof. Jaroslav Peregrin, UK) and abroad (courses by Prof. Peter Stadacher at the Department of Linguistics in Potsdam; courses by Prof. Wolfram Hinzen at the Faculty of Philosophy, Regensburg). He also participated in several editions of the Eastern Generative Grammar summer school (in Wrocław, courses by Prof. Yael Sharvit (UCLA) on negative polarity items; in Olomouc, courses by Prof. Ad Neeleman (UCL, London) on information structure). In 2007, he became the main local organizer of this international summer school in Brno. Between 2007–2009, he was the principal investigator of the GAČR project Negation and Negative Polarity Items in Czech (GP405/07/P252). From 2009–2011, he was a co-investigator of the GAČR project Formal Approaches to Verbal Prefixation and Aspect in Contemporary Czech (GA405/09/0677, principal investigator: Assoc. Prof. Markéta Ziková). Furthermore, between 2011–2015, he was a member of the research team for the GAČR project New Encyclopedic Dictionary of Czech Online (Enc-Czech online; GAP406/11/0294, principal investigators: Prof. Petr Karlík, Prof. Marek Nekula, Prof. Jana Pleskalová). From 2012–2015, he completed shorter research stays at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (2012, 2013), University of Nova Gorica (2012), and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (2013).

In 2015, he completed his habilitation at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, in the field of General Linguistics with his habilitation thesis *Czech Negation from the Formal Perspective*, which was subsequently published as an academic monograph (Lincom, Munich, 2015).

In his scholarly work, Mojmír Dočekal focuses on formal and experimental approaches to the semantics of natural languages, particularly the compositional nature of meaning. His main research topics include the formal analysis of anaphors (see his dissertation and the monograph *Bound Variables in Czech*), the semantic analysis of negation and negative polarity items (see his habilitation thesis and the monograph *Czech Negation from the Formal Perspective*), and the issues of plurality and their formalization. Since the mid-2010s, he has also been developing these theoretical topics experimentally: research initiated by the study of negative raising (neg raising) has gradually expanded to include negative polarity items, conjunctions, their plural behavior, and their relation to logical inferences. The central linguistic material is Czech, with many studies adopting a comparative perspective that includes English and German. The overarching goal is to confront experimental data with formal theories of natural language, thereby deepening the theoretical understanding of the phenomena under investigation and contributing to the development of formal linguistics. Recently, Mojmír Dočekal has broadened his focus to the interface of linguistics and analytic philosophy of language, particularly the issues of genericity and the relationship between language and thought, as well as the intersection of linguistics and psycholinguistics, specifically linguistic illusions in the research of negation and negative polarity items.

Given his field of study (general linguistics), Mojmír Dočekal publishes primarily in English in international journals and monographs, often in collaboration with prestigious foreign experts. Notable examples include the chapter Grimm, S., Dočekal, M. Counting Aggregates, Groups and Kinds: Countability from the Perspective of a Morphologically Complex Language. In: Filip, H. (ed.). *Countability in Natural Language*. Cambridge University Press, 2021: 85–120 (as of April 9, 2026, cited 27 times), and the article Dočekal, M., & Dotlačil, J. (2016). Experimental evidence for neg-raising in Slavic. *Linguistica*, 56(1), 93–109. <https://doi.org/10.4312/linguistica.56.1.93-109> (as of April 9, 2026, cited 14 times). He is also the author of two monographs that summarize the results of his doctoral and habilitation research.

Mojmír Dočekal is the co-editor of one collective monograph (Formal Approaches to Number in Slavic and Beyond) and has co-edited five conference proceedings from international events (e.g., Slavic Languages in the Perspective of Formal Grammar: Proceedings of FDSL 10.5, Czech in Formal Grammar), published by respected publishers such as Peter Lang and Language Science Press. He also served as a co-editor of a special issue of the journal Slovo a slovesnost dedicated to formal approaches to Czech.

Over the course of his academic career, Mojmir Dočekal has published 65 articles; of these, 6 are indexed in the Web of Science database, 2 in Scopus, and 7 have appeared in peer-reviewed international journals. Additionally, he has published 9 chapters in academic monographs and 41 articles in peer-reviewed conference proceedings from international events. His publications primarily focus on formal and experimental semantics, but also include overview texts (see his 19 entries in the New Encyclopedic Dictionary of Czech Online).

He has delivered more than 50 presentations at international conferences and workshops. His activities also include 14 invited lectures at foreign conferences and universities, including the highly regarded Sinn und Bedeutung conference, where he was a keynote speaker in 2022, and institutions such as Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Utrecht University, Universität Leipzig, Charles University, and Heinrich Heine Universität in Düsseldorf.

Mojmír Dočekal's work is regularly cited in academic literature: his scholarly articles and monographs have been cited 58 times in international databases and 85 times in other publications (a total of 143 citations for these academic works). According to Google Scholar, as of April 9, 2026, he has a total of 408 citations, which also includes citations of other types of outputs, such as 102 citations for entries in the New Encyclopedic Dictionary of Czech.

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

Even during his time as a doctoral student at the Department of Czech Language, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Mojmir Dočekal became involved in teaching, primarily in the bachelor's degree program in Czech Language and Literature, where he led courses focused on syntax, semantics, and the basics of logic.

Since 2005, he has been a permanent member of staff at the Department of Linguistics and Baltic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University. At his home institution, he teaches key courses in the Bachelor's degree programme (e.g., "Introduction to Syntax", "Philosophy of Language", "Formal and Experimental Semantics") as well as in the follow-up Master's degree programme, of which he is now the guarantor (e.g., "Grammar, Logic, Mind", "Negation"). In the doctoral specialisation in Experimental and Applied Linguistics — the creation of which he co-authored as part of Prof. Kysloushek's team within the project Intercultural Dimensions in Philological Doctoral Programmes (CZ.02.2.69/0.0/0.0/16_018/0002693) — he taught the courses "Experimental Syntax and Semantics" and "Critical Data Work", attended by doctoral students from all philological fields at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University. He also contributes to the interdisciplinary course "The Human as a Cultural Species: Foundations of Interdisciplinary Research in the Humanities", which he teaches jointly with staff from the Department of Archaeology and Museology and the Department of Religious Studies at the Faculty of Arts, MU, and to the interdisciplinary course "Approaches to the Scientific Study of Language", taught by staff of the Department of Linguistics and Baltic Studies. These courses attract students from a wide range of degree programmes and fields and have consistently enjoyed high enrolment.

At his home institution, Mojmir Dočekal serves as the Erasmus programme coordinator, and thanks to his initiative, mobility agreements have been established with a number of prestigious foreign universities in Germany, Austria, Slovenia, and France, including Universität Leipzig, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Universität Innsbruck, University of Nova Gorica, Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf, and Université Clermont Auvergne. Students at all levels of study travel to these universities on a regular basis — not only from the field of general linguistics, but from other philological disciplines as well. During short-term teaching stays at these universities (e.g., Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, University of Nova Gorica), Mojmir Dočekal contributed to courses focused on formal and experimental approaches to natural language semantics.

Over the course of his teaching career, Mojmir Dočekal has supervised 24 Bachelor's and 24 Master's theses, the majority of which addressed topics in formal and experimental semantics. He has served as doctoral supervisor to several PhD students, two of whom have already successfully defended their dissertations — among them Mgr. Marcin Wągiel, Ph.D., whose dissertation "Subatomic Quantification" received the prestigious international E. W. Beth Dissertation Prize 2020 and, in 2019, the Dean's Prize of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, for the best doctoral dissertation. At the Faculty of Arts, MU, he has also served as an opponent for several doctoral dissertations and was a member of a habilitation committee at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

At his home institution, Mojmir Dočekal serves as the guarantor of the expiring doctoral accreditation in General Linguistics (and has now become a member of the team administering the new form of doctoral studies across all philological fields, titled "Linguistics"). He also serves as the guarantor of the Master's degree programme in General Linguistics and is a member of the field board of English Studies at Palacký University Olomouc.

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

Doc. Mojmir Dočekal ranks among the leading Czech linguists and is a respected figure in linguistics within the European and broader international context. What sets him apart is his ability to connect general linguistics with the philosophy of language and with logic. In formal semantics, he has made significant contributions to the development of the theory of negation and negative polarity items, both at

the theoretical and experimental levels. His work on neg-raising and the typology of negative polarity items is consistently referenced and cited in the scholarly literature. Equally substantial is his contribution to the formal analysis of pluralities and to elucidating the relationship between derivational morphology of numerals and shifting operations in semantic interpretation. His research approach is characterized by the combination of detailed analysis of linguistic data with rigorous grounding in formal theories of natural language and experimental hypothesis testing. In summary, his work represents an internationally recognized contribution to formal and experimental semantics, particularly in the study of negation and negative polarity items, as well as to the theory of pluralities and to the relationship between derivational morphology and semantic interpretation.

An important part of his scholarly activity is also his editorial work. As early as 2007, he was one of the editors of the collective monograph *Czech in Generative Grammar*. This publication, together with subsequent edited monographs, has become an important reference source for the linguistic community working on formal approaches to Czech and other Slavic languages. In 2009, he was a guest co-editor of a special issue of the journal *Slovo a slovesnost* devoted to formal approaches to Czech, and in the same year, also co-editor of the post-conference proceedings *Czech in Formal Grammar*. He is further the editor of two post-conference proceedings from international FDSL conferences (2012 and 2015), *Slavic Languages in Formal Grammar: Proceedings of FDSL 8.5* and *Slavic Languages in the Perspective of Formal Grammar: Proceedings of FDSL 10.5*, published by the well-regarded publisher Peter Lang. He is currently co-editing the post-conference proceedings of the international conference *SinfonIJA 2023*, to be published by LangSci Press. His most theoretically ambitious editorial undertaking is the collective monograph *Formal Approaches to Number in Slavic and Beyond* (LangSci Press, 2021), which represents a significant contribution to formal research on plurality and numerals in Slavic languages and in a broader typological perspective.

A significant component of his scholarly profile is also his regular reviewing activity for both domestic and foreign impact-rated journals (e.g., *Glossa*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Languages*, *Filozofie*, *Slovo a slovesnost*), published by renowned publishers and institutions (e.g., Open Library of Humanities, Springer, MDPI, the Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Czech Academy of Sciences), and for international grant agencies (e.g., Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Slovenian Research Agency, Czech Science Foundation). He also regularly contributes to the evaluation of abstracts for the most prestigious international conferences in formal linguistics, particularly *Sinn und Bedeutung* and *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)*, as well as for other major international linguistics and Slavic studies forums, such as *Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL)*, *Formal Description of Slavic Languages (FDSL)*, and *SinfonIJA*.

His academic and organizational activities also play a substantial role. From 2014 to 2017, he was a member of the programme committee of the international conference *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)*; in 2026, he will be teaching at the Eastern Generative Grammar summer school, which is closely associated with this conference. Since 2017, he has been a member of the programme committee of the international conference *Roots of Pragmasemantics* at the University of Cologne. He also contributed to the local organization of the international Slavic linguistics conference *Formal Description of Slavic Languages in Brno* (2010 and 2014) and the international linguistics conference *SinfonIJA* in Brno (2019 and 2023). At the English-language conference *OLINCO 2014* in Olomouc, he co-organized a panel on formal semantics. At the Bohemistics conference *Bienále české lingvistiky 2024*, he co-organized a panel devoted to formal approaches to the semantics of Czech.

His standing in the international community of formal linguists is further attested by repeated invitations as a keynote speaker: in 2017 at the conference *Formal Description of Slavic Languages (FDSL)* in Nova Gorica, and in 2022 at the prestigious conference *Sinn und Bedeutung*, organized by the *Gesellschaft für Semantik*.

Over the course of his research career, Mojmír Dočekal has established collaborations with a number of renowned foreign scholars, including Prof. Scott Grimm (University of Rochester), Dr. Viola Schmitt (MIT), Prof. Jakub Dotlačil (Utrecht University), and Dr. Aviv Schoenfeld (Tel Aviv University). With them, he has worked on a range of topics in formal and experimental semantics, particularly in the areas of negation, negative polarity items, and pluralities.

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 11.05.2026

prof. RNDr. Václav Blažek, CSc.