



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Department of Political Science
and International Studies

prof. JUDr. PhDr. Lucia Mokrá, PhD

& the Promotions Committee

Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences

Comenius University in Bratislava

30 July 2025

Dear Prof. Mokrá and colleagues,

Re: assoc. prof. PhDr. Andrej Findor PhD

In my role as an opponent of the abovenamed individual in the ‘inauguration proceeding’, I am happy to offer my comments on the materials submitted. Having reviewed the documents submitted in support of assoc. professor Findor’s application for promotion to full professor, I wish to state at the outset I am supportive and recommend the University promotes him to full professor. I will structure my comments around three themes: research profile, teaching profile and personal profile.

In terms of research, Dr. Findor has made an internationally significant contribution to the study of intergroup prejudice, stereotypes and mechanisms of social inclusion and exclusion. He has employed both experimental and survey methods to tease out the factors (moral, emotional, identity etc.) that shape attitudes towards a range of public policies that target residents of marginalized ethnic and sexual minorities.

He has published a number of important articles. A few of which are worth singling out. Firstly, his study, ‘Equality, reciprocity, or need? Bolstering welfare policy support for marginalized groups with distributive fairness’ was published in what is often regarded as the world’s leading political science journal, the *American Political Science Review*. The peer review process is notoriously tough for that particular journal, so anyone who manages to pass muster with those

reviewers deserves praise. The article showed that distributive justice can significantly strengthen support for social policies than benefit marginalized communities. The article also demonstrated methodological innovation with its combination of field experiments and within-subjects experimental design. Secondly, his study on anti-Muslim bias in foreign policy attitudes published in one of the world's top ten political science journals, the *British Journal of Political Science*, provided a pioneering study of anti-Muslim prejudice and its impact on foreign policy attitudes. Moreover, that article also made a methodological innovation in terms of designing realistic experimental stimuli. Thirdly, his article on framing effects, social norm perception and tolerance of LGBTQ+ individuals provided an illuminating study of how the use of different frames in communication influences perceptions of social norms.

Each of these articles provides an important scholarly contribution in themselves, but also these joint-authored articles also highlight Dr Findor's research leadership of teams of researchers and his participation in internationally funded projects. He has played a key role leading two international projects, one funded by the European Media Information Fund and the other by the European Commission, and has participated in a dozen other international projects such as those funded by the International Visegrad Fund and the Open Society Foundation. Moreover, he has also won grants from domestic (Slovak) sources including the APVV.

In terms of his teaching profile, Dr Findor has a number of achievements. He has supervised two PhD students through to successful completion, one focused on moral framing and persuasion, the other examining framing in digital diplomacy. Moreover, he has supervised to completion well over a hundred BA theses and close to a hundred MA theses. Furthermore, he has taught a wide and impressive range of courses/modules at all levels covering qualitative and quantitative methods, ethnicity, European integration, sexuality and power, new social movements, European history, democracy, political communication and political psychology. Furthermore he has published pedagogical and teaching articles and books.

In terms of his personal profile, I would mention his willingness to take on the role of head of his department. Having done that role myself at my institution I know how demanding it can be and how it can suck away time from teaching and research. Moreover, having known Dr Findor for a quarter of a century (I first met him when I was doing the empirical research for my PhD in Bratislava in 1999-2000) I can confirm that he is someone of the highest research integrity and someone who has been involved in several international networks. Moreover, he has presented his work at a number of leading international conferences, such as the European

Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). What also speaks to his character and research leadership was then when we met at the ECPR general conference in Dublin last year he was keen to introduce me to Slovak scholars from the younger generation, thereby helping them to forge connections with academics from beyond the borders of Slovakia.

Finally, as someone who knows Czech, Slovak and Central European academia quite well and who has served on habilitation and professorial committees at several universities in the region, I believe that Dr Findor meets the criteria and standard expected of a full professor.

Based on my evaluation of his teaching, research and personal characteristics, I would therefore recommend the appointment of assoc. prof. PhDr. Andrej Findor PhD as full professor of political science.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,



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