



Annex No. 12 to the MU Directive on Habilitation Procedures and Professor Appointment
Procedures

Public Lecture Evaluation

Masaryk University

Faculty

of Science

Procedure field

Ecology

Applicant

Jeffrey Clark Nekola, PhD.

Lecture date

19.4.2018

Lecture topic

Universal Diversity or: How Much Ecology Really Underlies
Community and Macroecology?

Persons present

(number)

95..... (see attached list of attendees)

Designated evaluators

(board members)

prof. RNDr. Michal Horsák, Ph.D. (MU)
prof. Mgr. Stanislav Pekár, Ph.D. (MU)
prof. RNDr. Jan Zima, DrSc. (AV ČR)
prof. Mgr. David Storch, Ph.D. (UK)
doc. Mgr. Petr Pokorný, Ph.D. (UK)

Dr. Nekola introduced to the audience macroecology and the closely related fields of community ecology and biogeography in a very didactic manner. He focused on the issue of pattern universality from the perspective of statistical mechanics and complex systems. Over the talk he asked several provocative and spot on question to be answered. Scientists invariably search for mechanism to explain pattern using mechanism from within their given discipline. This approach, however, is sensible given that we know most about those subjects within our respective fields. But what happens when the patterns we wish to understand are found to be universal expectations across a number of seemingly unrelated fields? Does limiting ourselves to disciplinary mechanisms make sense in such situations? We ended up with some important suggestions and rationalization how we can progress forward. This one hour talk stimulated an extensive and vital discussion as the talk received more than a hundred participants.

Conclusion

The lecture delivered by Jeffrey Clark Nekola, entitled Universal Diversity or: How Much Ecology Really Underlies Community and Macroecology? and delivered as part of the habilitation procedure, *demonstrated* sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Ecology.



In Brno on April 19th 2018

[Michal Horskák]

[Stanislav Pekár]

[Jan Zima]

[David Storch]

[Petr Pokorný]

