

## HABILITATION THESIS REVIEWER'S REPORT

### Masaryk University

#### Applicant

RNDr. Ondřej Mulíček, Ph.D.

#### Habilitation thesis

Urban Relational Spaces: Spatiotemporal Patterns of Everyday Life

#### Reviewer

doc. Mgr. Martin Šveda, Ph.D.

#### Reviewer's home unit, institution

Department of Regional Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

### Introductory evaluation

The submitted habilitation thesis explores the relational spatiotemporal patterns of everyday urban life, with an emphasis on the spatiality of everyday routines, temporal infrastructures, and the embeddedness of daily practices within broader societal and institutional contexts. It is a theoretically grounded, methodologically robust, and conceptually rich contribution to human and urban geography. The author builds upon the work of key scholars in time-geography and rhythm analysis, yet offers his own original interpretations and analytical typologies that advance current conceptual thinking. The thesis is aligned with the long-standing tradition of geographic thought that considers time-space configurations as central analytical units. As Nigel Thrift (1977) insightfully argued, “the essential unit of geography is not spatial, it lies in regions of time-space and in the relation of such units to the larger spatio-temporal configurations.” Mulíček’s work reflects precisely this understanding by analysing how everyday life is shaped through the interplay of space and time, and how routinized practices contribute to the production of socio-temporal order. The topical relevance of the thesis is unquestionable. In light of recent societal transformations—such as the proliferation of ICTs, the growing role of generative artificial intelligence, and increasing occurrences of disruptive events (e.g., pandemics, climate change, geopolitical shocks)—rethinking how space and time are structured and experienced in everyday urban life is more urgent than ever. The thesis responds to these challenges with intellectual clarity and theoretical depth, offering an insightful account of urban relational space and temporality.

### Scientific contribution and originality

Ondřej Mulíček presents a coherent and conceptually sophisticated theoretical and methodological framework grounded in rhythm analysis, relational geography, and practice theory. His interpretation of rhythmicity transcends a merely descriptive approach; instead, he engages critically with how embodied routines, spatial practices, and infrastructures interact to shape the spatiotemporal order of everyday life. The author demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how rhythms are embedded within material arrangements, institutional structures, and technological systems—particularly in the context of

contemporary urban environments. A particularly important contribution of the author's work is the development and application of the concept of chronopolis, which he has refined over time through his research. In this work, the concept is used to describe cities as places where time is structured through regular, shared routines—such as commuting, working hours, or institutional schedules. It serves to explain how cities function not only through spatial organization but also through temporal coordination. By highlighting how time becomes “built into” urban spaces through collective behaviour, the concept offers a valuable perspective for understanding urban life. Overall, the thesis demonstrates the author's ability to develop original ideas, connect them with existing theories, and apply them in a way that deepens our understanding of (urban) everyday life and its temporal structures.

### **Quality of scientific output and international relevance**

The author has a strong publication record, with outputs in respected international journals (Q1 and Q2) that demonstrate high academic quality and relevance. He consistently publishes with leading scholars in the field, and his work is well cited and internationally visible. This confirms his academic maturity and sustained engagement in advancing human geography.

### **Comments and suggestions**

The thesis is particularly strong in addressing the local scale of urban rhythms and the meso-scale of commuting practices. One dimension that remains underexplored is the supra-regional scale of daily/weekly temporalities. Although everydayness is usually associated with local routines, larger-scale patterns—such as weekly commuting, seasonal mobility or long-distance rhythms—also shape the spatiotemporal fabric of society. This is not a criticism, but rather a note on possible future directions, as the thesis remains wellfocused and coherent in its current scope.

### **Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence**

1. How could the proposed framework account for long-range or trans-regional rhythmic practices in everyday life?
2. How can the growing availability of real-time data, combined with AI-based analytical tools, be used to better understand routine behaviours of urban actors and, in the longer term, to inform urban planning and decision-making processes?

### **Conclusion**

The habilitation thesis entitled *Urban Relational Spaces: Spatiotemporal Patterns of Everyday Life* by RNDr. Ondřej Mulíček, Ph.D. **fulfils** requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Social geography and regional development.

Date: 12. 08. 2025

Signature: