

Letter of Recommendation

To: Prof. Martin Kubala

Applicant: Dr. Jiří Pánek

As requested, I am writing to indicate my strong support for dr. Jiří Pánek's application concerning a full professorship in geography at Palacký University Olomouc in the Czech Republic.

I have known Jiří Pánek more than 10 years through common interests. We both are passionately interested in digital participatory mapping as a research methodology and as a tool for participatory planning. From the beginning, I have found Jiří an exceptionally skillful and ambitious researcher. His work represents pioneering research in the field of digital participatory mapping and the tool that he has developed "emotional mapping" has been used at least in 11 countries. Jiří Pánek's work has attracted international interest which is shown in his very good publication record.

Jiří Pánek's research interests are especially wide: In addition to his main research interest that focuses on public participation and includes also youth participation and participatory budgeting, he has recently studied a multitude of themes. These include topical research on environmental injustices, sustainable tourism, ecosystem services, environmental hazards, environmental health and thermal perception & heat island effects but also research on crime prevention and conflict areas – just to name a few. Common to all these themes is an interest towards human perspectives and the production and analysis of geocoded human knowledge. Also, the effective and influential use of knowledge from people is central in his work.

Besides research, Jiří Pánek has impressive teaching experience both in bachelor and master levels. Many courses focus on geospatial methods but there are also many courses based on his own research themes. He has also exceptional international teaching experience: he has taught in numerous countries both in Global North and South. He has extensive experience as bachelor and master's thesis supervision and several PhD supervision projects are ongoing.

It is my understanding that his work has contributed significantly in developing digital civic participation in the Czech Republic and beyond. Jiří has also been active in international associations, e.g. as a reviewer in journals and as an invited speaker and organizer. He has received many honors and awards.

I do not hesitate to express my strong support to the application of Jiří Pánek. Please contact me if there is anything else I can do on his behalf.

Yours sincerely

Marketta Kyttä
Professor in Land use planning
Department of Built Environment
Aalto University, Finland