

Interpretation Guide for the Senate Habilitation Directive (pursuant to Annex 6 of the WU By-Laws) issued by the Department of Information Systems and Operations

July 2016

This regulation is intended to further specify the general Senate Habilitation Directive with regard to cumulative habilitation theses.

1. A series

For a cumulative habilitation, candidates are expected to publish a total of at least five excellent academic contributions that are related in topic. The contributions must have been published in very good periodicals (see below). The number of contributions indicated above serves as a reference point and may be reduced if the habilitation candidate has produced and published groundbreaking scientific achievements. Typically, the required academic contributions are journal articles. To some extent, however, contributions to conference proceedings may also be included. The candidate is also expected to have authored additional publications and conference papers in his or her field.

2. Excellent academic contributions

Only those publications can be considered excellent that have been subjected to the usual journal review process, are of an appropriate scientific standard, and are considered by the scientific community (international if possible) to significantly advance scientific progress in the respective field. They can be interdisciplinary in nature and should be expected to be of medium- or long-term benefit to society and the economy, directly or indirectly.

3. Periodicals regarded as very good

There is no complete and regularly updated list of periodicals considered to be very good and held in high regard by the scientific community, and there are no intentions of compiling such a list.

The list of periodicals deemed to be very good compiled by the Department of Information Systems and Operations provides a basis for determining whether a periodical can be regarded as very good (whitelist). This list can be expanded by adding further journals relevant to the subject or restricted, depending on the focus of the habilitation and the nature of the *venia docendi* to be awarded.

Articles number four and five can be substituted by three excellent conference contributions per article. Very good conferences typically meet the following criteria:

- The contributions are chosen based on an academic selection procedure that includes three or more peer reviews
- The rejection rate is higher than 70%
- The conferences are organized by major discipline-specific associations (e.g. ACM, IEEE, IFIP, Usenix, AIS)

The habilitation assessors are expected to be familiar with the leading conferences in the field, so they can independently check the quality criteria mentioned above.

4. Authorship

The academic publications submitted by the habilitation candidate are required as proof that he or she is capable of independent scientific work.

At least one of the journal articles must be a single-author publication by the candidate. The other articles should not have more than the usual number of authors for publications in the respective discipline (approx. two to three authors). In the case of publications with four or more authors, the candidate shall state detailed grounds to illustrate his or her contribution.

Any additional single-author publications by the applicant shall be given special weight: Two single-author publications shall be considered equivalent to three co-authored publications.

5. Time frame

The five academic papers required should have been accepted for publication no more than ten years ago. Older papers are weighted lower, based on a ratio of one to three.

6. Transitional provisions

The legitimate expectations of habilitation candidates who can prove that they have relied on the validity of previous regulations shall be protected, as long as the candidate's work is compatible with the meaning of previous regulations.

7. Guidelines for non-cumulative habilitation theses (monographs)

Candidates who have agreed with their supervisor to produce a monograph thesis should also have a record of academic papers published in high-quality periodicals and suitable conference papers.

In contrast to a cumulative habilitation, authors of a monograph habilitation thesis only need a lower number of papers in high-quality periodicals and/or conference proceedings regarded as very good by the international scientific community. The specifications given above apply analogously.