

REVIEWER'S OPINION

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**Competition procedure for the position of full Professor
in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Contemporary Philosophical Theories),
Department "History of philosophical and scientific ideas",
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology
Announced by Bulgarian Academy of Science in *the State Gazette*, Issue
89/12.11.2019**

Grounds for further review

This Opinion follows Order # RD -09-771/ 18.12.2019 г. I am member of the Scientific jury in accordance with the decision of the first meeting of the Scientific jury, held on 24.01.2020.

Information and impressions about the applicant

The only candidate in this competition procedure for full Professor is **Tatyana Petrova Batuleva-Kancheva**, currently associate professor at BAS. She was born in 1957; graduated in 1981 with a master's degree in French language and literature from Sofia University "St. Klement of Ohrid". In 1989 she defended her Ph.D. in philosophy and was selected as a research associate at the BAS' Institute of Philosophy.

Mrs. T. Batuleva is associate professor since 1999, and in 2018 she successfully defended "grand" Doctoral thesis "Specifics of contemporary feminist theories of difference". Since 2015, Assoc. Prof. T. Batuleva is head of the "History of Philosophical and Scientific Ideas" department of IPS at BAS.

Assoc. Prof. T. Batuleva managed to establish herself among her Bulgarian and

foreign colleagues as an erudite specialist in various aspects of the historical and philosophical problems related to French philosophy. She is also a translator of the works of prominent representatives of contemporary Western (mainly French) philosophy.

The documents are submitted in due time and in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Description of Batuleva's scientific works:

Ass. Prof. T. Batuleva participates in the competition for "Professor" with several works. That includes a couple of monographs, one anthology, six studies and 11 articles (three in English). Some of them are submissions from participation in international forums and conferences. Most of them are published in refereed or impacted magazines. One of her monographs is released in an international publishing house.

The candidate's publications are devoted to several current scientific problems. Authentically presented by her, those are mainly in the field of feminist and contemporary French philosophies. Besides that, they also include interpretations of the philosophical receptions, Bulgarian philosophical culture and some topical issues related to feminity's social being.

Batuleva's works are directly related to the subject matter and criteria for the announced professional field (Contemporary philosophical theories). The review of the applicant's tables on the minimum national requirements for the academic position Professor and DSc shows that Batuleva not only meets the minimum requirements but also exceeds them. That's evident in her total of 745 points.

Scientific contributions

The main scientific contributions in the works of Assoc. Prof. Batuleva I would formulate as follows:

(1) In several articles in the period 2002-2018, and especially in the monograph *Contemporary Interpretations of Femininity* (Vienna, 2019), Assoc. Prof. Batuleva explores the main ideas of Luce Irigaray and other leading authors in contemporary feminist philosophy. This monograph can also be defined as a "kind of compendium" of her fruitful and heuristic efforts to present to the specialized community the significant results of her previous philosophical studies on the current readings of the problems related to femininity.

In the cited publications such as in others, she provides us with a complete philosophical reflection on the theory of difference, which is undoubtedly a contribution to this current theoretical field. In this case, the author refers to Irigaray's idea of deconstruction. The last isn't just a rejection and negation, but an alternative solution and authentic reading of the possibility of overcoming the universal subject.

It's not solely because of Batuleva's correct and constructive approach to the selected topics but also through her competent philosophical analysis, adequate interpretations, and proper use of cognitive tools that she finds a worthy and original place: that of presenting relevant points of those critical and current problems.

(2) Both in the third chapter of the monograph and in one of the studies, Assoc. Prof. Batuleva provides an interesting reading of the basic ideas of the "ethics of care" and its positive forms of practical update (which does not turn into "minority violence"). Instead, it's an efficient critical potential for social renewal and integration of all social strata. In this case, the political uses of care create a favorable opportunity to strike a balance between vulnerability and freedom; dependence and autonomy. In such a perspective, care ethics is also seen as a means of successfully applying the moderate deconstructivist approach.

(3) Assoc. Prof. Batuleva correctly substantiates the idea of the innovative nature of feminist interpretations of femininity including several groundbreaking ideas. Some of

those go beyond the boundaries of feminist knowledge. Such a reading takes into account the sexual identity. This determination — different of multiple sexualities, maintains a balance between male and female subjects and their specific, including political, situation.

(4) In her monograph entitled *Subject and Responsibility* (2010) Assoc. Prof. Batuleva successfully examines the relationship between the act of assuming responsibility and the corresponding degrees of "opening up of the subject." She compares three emblematic ethics of responsibility (of Levinas, Jonas, and Ricoeur). In all of them, vulnerability is leading: those of the other in front of me; those of the unborn who is dependent on his predestination: and those of the "taciturn God who has withdrawn". The "ethics of humanity" leads to paradoxical responsibility: thanks to the relation with the Other the subject transcends its boundaries; thanks to the substitution with the Other, the Self acquires the status of unique and irreplaceable.

These problems were initially raised and analyzed in all five articles by Batuleva on Albert Camus. The first two expressing the thesis of the work of art as a result of a double imperative and preservation of the tension between two poles: those of "intellectual rationalism" and "divine irrationalism", of loneliness and solidarity. On the one hand, it's engagement with the suffering of the world, on the other – it's faithfulness to its beauties, and the joy of being.

(5) Batuleva's interest in the problem of the reception of French philosophy in Bulgaria is realized in the anthology "The French Philosophy in Bulgarian Philosophical Culture" (2014). Due to that and all mentioned, I tend to recommend her to work on the preference of Bulgarian authors to ethical and social problems of the relevant French thinkers.

Besides being prepared and presented at the level of the most competent specialized readings, her works' style is mainly accessible to relevant readers. That same

publications' quality is crucial when evaluating a candidate for Professor. Especially in the examined field of study.

Organizational activity

For several years Assoc. Prof. T. Batuleva has been head of department "History of Philosophical and Scientific Ideas" of IPS at BAS. Since 2015 she's a member of the Standing Committee of Humanities and Arts at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA) and member of the Governing Council of BAS (since 2018).

Batuleva participates in 20 scientific juries on doctoral and habilitation philosophical procedures in various specialized scientific and educational structures. Her tolerant attitude undoubtedly places her among the specialists, preferred and useful for professional communication.

A regular and promising participant in several prestigious international specialized forums and publications, Ass. Prof. T. Batuleva is a member of 1 international editorial board and 1 international editorial council. Yet her achievements don't end up with that. Besides all said, she participated in 26 editorial boards of collections, 8 of which are international and is an active participant in 18 scientific projects (institutional, national and international). Four of the last she's the leader of.

Her original publications, such as her participation in a few prestigious international and national scientific forums, are highly appreciated by the specialized Bulgarian philosophical community. The reason for this isn't only the exciting, relative to our era topics, but also their high level of interpretation. The evidence of that is the 60+ citations and references and three scientific reviews of her books.

CONCLUSION

In view of all that was said, I am convinced that Assoc. Prof. Batuleva far

exceeds the minimal requirements of the National Centre for Information and Documentation regarding the acquirement of the academic position “professor”. I call upon the members of the Scientific Jury to unanimously elect Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Petrova-Batuleva, to this position, and that they recommend to the Scientific Council of IPS – BAS to confirm the election. I vote with all my persuasion for the award to the candidate the academic position of PROFESSOR.

Prof. J. Stoyanov, DSc

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Sofia