

## **REVIEWER'S OPINION**

**By Prof. PhD Ivan Kamburov, Department of History of Philosophy, Sofia University  
"St. Kliment Ohridski", scientific field 2.3. Philosophy**

**Of the scientific papers submitted for participation in a competition for the occupation  
of the PROFESSOR academic position in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy,  
promulgated in the State Gazette, issue. 89 of 12/11/2019**

In the competition takes part a sole candidate - Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Batuleva-Kancheva.

I declare that I am not a person related to the candidate participating in the Competition for awarding the Academic Position "Professor" within the meaning of § 1 (5) of the Supplementary Provisions of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and that I have no private interest which could affect the impartial and objective performance of my work as a member of the jury in this competition.

### **1. Assessment of fulfilling requirements for admittance to evaluation**

According to Art. 3, para. 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, "Evaluation of the dissertation work and of the candidates for the academic positions" Chief Assistant", "Assistant Professor "and" Professor" shall be carried out only for the persons who meet the minimum national requirements under Art. 2B, paragraphs 2 and 3, respectively, of the requirements of Article 2b, paragraph 5. "According to Article 4 of the same law, the assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements shall be carried out by the scientific jury.

The requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor" are defined in Art. 29 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

According to para. 1, item 1 - Acquired the PhD - the candidate fulfills the condition.

According to para. 1, item 2 - The candidate has held the academic position of associate professor for more than two years, thus meeting the requirements of the law.

According to para. 1, item 3 requires submission of a monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific editions, which do not repeat the ones submitted for the

acquisition of the PhD degree, for the degree of Doctor of Science and for the occupation of the academic position of Assoc. Professor.

The publications presented do not repeat the publications for the acquisition of the scientific degree “Doctor of Sciences” and for acquisition of the academic position “Associate Professor”, and meet the requirements for obtaining the academic position “Professor”.

## **2. General characteristic of the candidate’s work.**

The scientific papers proposed by the only candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. T. Batuleva reflect the thematic direction of the competition: philosophy, contemporary philosophical theories, and therefore can be accepted for review.

For her participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Batuleva presented 2 monographs; 11 articles and 6 studios. The monograph is presented as a habilitation work „*Batuleva, T. Contemporary Interpretations of Feminity*“. Axia Academic Publishers, Vienna, 2019, 303 pages; as well as a monograph that is not presented as a major habilitation work „*Batuleva, T. Subject and responsibility*“. S., 2010, 147 pages.

1. Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Batuleva examines a very topical issue for our present, both philosophically and socially - the Philosophy of Difference in contemporary feminist theories, presented mainly in French philosophy.

2. As a methodological basis for her research, T. Batuleva takes the category of "Difference" as an ontological principle through which she presents contemporary French philosophical feminist theories.

3. It implements a systematic analysis and reflection of the feminist type of deconstruction in Bulgarian philosophical thought. According to her, feminist theories have a markedly philosophical character, which also sets their social projection - maintaining or eliminating gender differences. This fact also determines the possibility of redefining the world.

## **3.Evaluation of the contributions to the annexed publications made after the appointment of the academic post of Associate Professor.**

Analyzing the texts submitted for the competition, we find the following theoretical results of the candidate:

1. For the first time in Bulgarian philosophical thought, she reflected on Luce Irigaray's philosophy of difference as a transition from an ethic of Difference to a Two-Subject Culture. T. Batuleva reveals the cardinal points in the works of Irigaray (sexuated difference and ethics of difference; two-subject, male-female, culture and „being-two“) as consecutive levels in the creation of space of reciprocity, love and sharing. It aims to prove that Irigaray does not limit her deconstruction to refutation, but proposes *alternative solutions*: original reading of the possibility to overcome the universal subject by opposing it with a different subject; positive strategy for a new type of sociality, built upon the non-hierarchical relation between two equal subjects. It implements a comparative analysis between Irigaray's „being-two“ and Levinas' „being-for-the-Other“. While Levinas talks about hypostasis of the self in the Other, Irigaray asserts that each of the two independent and different subjects has its own boundaries, and these boundaries contribute to their drawing close together; in the framework of Lévinas's ethics of responsibility the hypostasis of the self is final, while in Irigaray's ethics of difference, *the transgression of the self is temporary and counterbalanced by loyalty to oneself*; the two subjects remain open to new shared worlds and new returnings to oneself.

2. T. Batuleva offers a comprehensive interpretation of Sylviane Agacinski's postfeminist theory, with her thesis that the human condition in its universality cannot be understood in any way *without reference to the two sexes*. In this context, in her book *"Sexual Politics"* (1998) Agacinski has stated: "We want to keep the freedom to seduce and be seduced. There will never be a war of the sexes in France".

3. The main idea that justifies T. Batuleva, is that feminist philosophical interpretations of the feminity are presented as philosophies of *togetherness with the other*. Unity in the Difference.

4. T. Batuleva substantiates the thesis that the French feminist philosophical theories emancipate the political discourse in which the Difference becomes a dynamic unity.

5. T. Batuleva examines Rosi Braidotti's specific interpretation of difference, which, being inspired by differentialism, on the one hand, and the nomadic project, on the other, creates one of the most interesting contemporary philosophical conceptions. She is looking for different roles of the Difference – first, in the context of Braidotti's understanding of the stages of the feminist project as a set of „degrees of difference“; second, by presenting difference as a defining element in her theory, the construction of the nomadic subject and his or her becomings in a posthuman and postanthropocentric context; third, in the political projections of the feminist brand of nomadism, based on the politics of location. Justifies the

conclusion about the *positive structure of the nomadic posthuman subject* as opposed to the classical subject, on the one hand, and the deconstructed subject, on the other.

6. T. Batuleva performs a comprehensive study of the reception of the contemporary French philosophy in Bulgaria by analyzing the theoretical results of its most significant representatives.

#### **4. Compliance with formal criteria and scientometric indicators.**

The application of Tatyana Batuleva meets all the formal requirements for obtaining the academic position of Professor. She has enough publications that have not be used in other competitions; the candidate has been cited sufficiently to admit that she has influenced both the development and the spread of Bulgarian philosophical science; she has participated in a sufficient number of practical projects.

#### **5. Personal impressions of the applicant**

I have known Tatyana Batuleva for many years. We have worked together on sociopolitical projects. We have participated in numerous discussions on current public issues. My impressions are positive. Assoc. Prof. T. Batuleva is able to formulate and defend her thesis, regardless of the widespread attitudes towards them.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The quality and the importance of the submitted scientific publications **fully justifies me in giving an entirely positive assessment of her candidature and to propose to the distinguished scientific jury to vote unanimously for the award of the academic position of Professor in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Contemporary Philosophical Theories) to Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Batuleva-Kancheva.**

Member of the Scientific Jury:

Prof. Ivan Kamburov, PhD

24/02/2020