

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Dr Antoaneta Nikolova, SWU "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

Regarding competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Aesthetics), announced in SG, issue 67 / 28.07.2020

1. Information about the competition

The competition was announced for the needs of the Section "Culture, Aesthetics, Values", IFS - BAS. I participate as a member of the scientific jury according to the order № RD 09-464 from 28.09.2020 of the Director of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of BAS and decision of the Scientific Council of IFS - BAS. The only participant in the competition is Assist. Prof. Dr. Silvia Borisova.

2. Brief information about the candidate

Assist. Prof. Dr. Silvia Borisova graduated in philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2006 with a bachelor thesis "Origin of the work of art". In the following year she received a master degree in Contemporary Philosophy with a master thesis on "The Sublime in Negatives". The topic of her doctoral thesis in Aesthetics defended in 2011 is "Limits of Aesthetic Consciousness". She was a part-time lecturer in aesthetics at the Department of Logic, Ethics and Aesthetics, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the periods 2012 – 2014 and 2017 – 2019; since 2019 she is a part-time lecturer in philosophy of sports at the Department of Psychology, Pedagogy and Sociology, Faculty of Pedagogy, NSA "Vasil Levski". Since 2015 she has been successively Assistant and Chief Assistant Professor in the Section "Culture, Aesthetics, Values", ISSK - BAS. She has rich pedagogical experience. She has led a number of courses and seminars for the specialty of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", as well as lectures at the Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Psychology, Pedagogy and Sociology, NSA "Vasil Levski". In addition, she has held dozens of thematic presentations and workshops on tolerance, non-discrimination and protection of human rights in schools and universities in the whole country under the project "PI@tform for Toler@ntnost.bg", as well as thematic information presentations and workshops for professional, educational, career and personal

orientation with students from Sofia University and other universities under the project "Opportunities without Borders". She has a rich expert and consulting activity as well as responsible scientific-organisational activity. Since 2018 she has been the Secretary of the General Assembly of IPS - BAS, and since 2019 she has been the acting head of the section "Culture, Aesthetics, Values".

Silvia Borisova has clear creative pursuits and achievements in the field of aesthetics. In that, she combines purely theoretical research with its application in the field of education and artistic creativity. Evidence of this is her participation in a number of research projects, as well as in projects in the field of academic and non-formal education and artistic-creative (applied-aesthetic) projects. Silvia Borisova participated in 22 scientific forums, has 25 articles, 8 studies and 2 monographs. Her visibility in the scientific life is proved by 13 citations, 5 published reviews and 5 interviews published and broadcasted on television and radio.

3. Fulfilment of the requirements for holding the academic position

The documents submitted for participation in the announced competition comply with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for its implementation, adopted by the Bulgarian Government, the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at BAS and the rules of IPS at BAS. The criteria for the national requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" are fulfilled; Silvia Borisova has 370 points, while the required minimum is 200 points.

4. General characteristics of the presented scholar papers

The list of scholar works with which Assist. Prof. Dr. Silvia Emilova Borisova - Spasova applied for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Section "Culture, Aesthetics, Values", IPS - BAS, include 1 monograph of 232 pages, 3 studies and 5 articles published (except for one, which is a preface of a book) in journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. All publications fully correspond to the theme of the competition and present an author, who is bold and profound, innovative and provocative, erudite and original, reflective and vital, objectively analysing the subject of the research and passionately involved in its living. This is an author with her own style of philosophical and aesthetic writing.

On the one hand, each of the presented works is characterized by completeness, precision, depth and clear multi-dimensional logic. With real mastery, Silvia Borisova discovers unexplored problematic fields in contemporary aesthetics, highlights marginalized issues, and builds bridges between thinkers and concepts. She has an impressive ability to present briefly and comprehensively the prehistory, essence and the problematic issues in the topics she researches. In all her works at least three upgrading levels could be distinguished: semantically rich, erudite and philosophically sound analysis of the main trends, traditions and achievements in the field; highlighting the modern context of the problem; outlining original directions in approaches and solutions. This structure that is explicitly revealed in the monograph and presented through the metaphor of roots, crown, fruit and flower, is implicitly present in the other works of the candidate as well. Therefore, the presented works are living wholes, in which all topics and issues are in mutual response.

On the other hand, being complete, the presented works are also open; there are a lot of hints in them. They are dynamic wholes that offer many and varied codes – codes that require deciphering, but which also have the potential to trigger an unexpected response from the reader, as they have a strong creative potential. Therefore, the structure of this aspect of the works could be explained in terms of the other metaphor developed by the author in the presented monograph, namely the garden "with a river and a path for different types of walks" (p. 216), walks that every time might be different as well as the river is always different.

There are many topics developed by Silvia Borisova. She rethinks the basic conceptual fields of the aesthetic theory: she unravels the basic aesthetic category of beautiful; descends into the mythological roots of the aesthetic; explores the problematic field of the negative aesthetics; dares to look from the other side; touches the reality beyond words; confidently walks through the spaces of heterotopias; and discovers new and unsuspected connections between ideas, approaches, thoughts, creative potentials, insights. Silvia Borisova reveals the logical constructions of order and harmony in the classical aesthetics as well as the multidirectional subjectivity of the modern one; unfolds the new reading of the aesthetic that oscillates at the borders, at the gaps and thresholds where external and internal, reality and thought, abstraction and living being are not oppositions but mutual transition of different aspects of the living shared reality.

It is especially remarkable for me that with her profound research on Western aesthetics, Silvia Borisova reveals how nowadays this aesthetics approaches the understanding of non-duality, process, threshold, and relativity that is at the foundation of the Far Eastern way of thinking. Therefore, I have no doubt that her path, revealing so clearly the sunny gardens of the West, will lead her to an equally profound understanding of the misty aesthetic landscapes of the East.

5. Scientific contributions

I agree with the list of scientific contributions presented by the candidate.

6. Conclusion

Based on the presented works and biography of the candidate, I am convinced that Assist. Prof. Dr. Silvia Borisova is a well-established philosopher with her own position, style and achievements. She has all the necessary qualities to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor". Therefore, I strongly recommend the Scientific Jury and the Scientific Council of the IPS at BAS to award the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Aesthetics) to Assistant Professor Dr. Silvia Borisova.

09.12. 2020

Member of the Scientific Jury:

Sofia

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Antoaneta Nikolova