

OPINION

for Kamelia Kirilova Zhabilova, a participant in a competition for Associate Professor in Professional direction 2.3. Philosophy (History of Philosophy; Bulgarian Philosophical Culture), for the needs of the "History of Philosophical and Scientific Ideas" section in the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS by Prof. DSc. Dimitar Tsatsov, VTU "St. Cyril and Methodius"

Dr. Zabilova is the only candidate in the announced competition for associate professor.

1. General description of the presented materials

Chief Assistant Kamelia Zhabilova participates in the competition for an Associate Professor with one monograph, one study, and one article. The attached texts are published in the period 2007 - 2022 and are not included in the lists of submitted publications for obtaining the educational-scientific degree "doctor" (2004) and the academic position "Chief Assistant" (2007).

Generally, the works of Dr. Zhabilova include two monographs, four studies, and twenty-six articles. She has seventeen citations; five reviews; eight participations in projects; and five scientific forums. Dr. Zhabilova was a member of the editorial board of "Philosophical Alternatives" magazine.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific activity

The candidate mainly carries out historical-philosophical analyses, the center of which is the interaction between the national philosophical tradition and the Western European one. By conducting comparative investigations, different in content, the candidate reveals specific, distinctive features of philosophizing in Bulgaria and offers heuristic hypotheses regarding one or another philosophical event on a larger scale.

3. Scientific contributions:

Dr. Zhabilova's work is internally coherent. The analyzed problems cross each other while maintaining their salience. The high professionalism of the author is evident in the interpretation of each of the issues. The problems related to the context of the "Bulgarian Nietzsche" are still open, they have not been resolved culturally and philosophically - let it be borne in mind that Nietzsche's book "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" has four translations, i.e., there is almost no other philosophical work in Bulgaria that has received that kind of attention. That is why we can note that Dr. Zhabilova's work significantly contributes to understanding the national context of the "Bulgarian Nietzsche."

I will outline Dr. Zhabilova's contributions by partially reconstructing her ideas. The first logical step is

the article "The Balkans in the mental cartography of the Bulgarian identity. (In: "The Balkan cultural matrix and the European project." S., 2007). Through Pierre Nora's concept of "places of memory," the emphasis is placed on the territorial in the understanding of the term and in this context, the topics related to the Bulgarian national identity are understood. Of particular value, in this case, is the introduction of the term "mental cartography," an attempt to concretize the way of life of each one as a synthesis of natural, social, national, mythological, etc., but understood as an attempt at concrete, hermeneutic phenomenology. It is this notion that is the main conceptual and methodological "grip" above all for making sense of the national context of the "Bulgarian Nietzsche."

The next logical step in the reconstruction, directly related to the contribution of Dr. Zhabilova's works, is her theses, referring to the outlining of the meaning of "family" concepts such as "national philosophy," "national philosophizing," "Bulgarian philosophy," etc. It shares the value orientation of the "Society for Intercultural Philosophy" (Gesellschaft für Interkulturelle Philosophie e.v., Köln), founded in 1989. Her call is for the need for a debate regarding the canon of Bulgarian philosophical culture. A task that modern Bulgarian philosophers still do not understand in its fundamental meaning. Dr. Zhabilova gives a concrete example by trying to present the development of Bulgarian aesthetics in its theoretical, methodological, ideological multi-layeredness in the study "Research on aesthetic thought in our country" ("Criticism and Humanism," 2009), which can be seen as a draft for a future monograph.

A fourth contribution related to the analysis of the specific presence of the "Bulgarian Nietzsche" on the Bulgarian cultural-philosophical scene is understanding the interpretations, translations, etc. This is the subject of the second part of the monograph, in which a comprehensive review of research on Nietzsche from the beginning of the 20th century to the present is made. Central are the themes of Zarathustra and the eternal return.

The monograph has an appendix, "Periodization of the presence of the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche in Bulgaria (1897 - 1944)", in which the interest of Bulgarian philosophers in this philosophy is analyzed in detail, with the emphasis on the work of Pencho Slaveikov.

Fifth. If the contributions of Dr. Zhabilova, dedicated to the "Bulgarian Nietzsche," are related to the "excavation" of layers of the Bulgarian philosophical readings, in the first part of the monograph new interpretative horizons of Nietzsche "by itself" are set. It should be noted right away that it is precisely in this regard that the candidate's heuristic potential is most evident because, in the vast "field" of interpretations related to Nietzsche's work, it is challenging to find "white" spots and an original view. Dr. Zhabilova refutes this by referring to essential themes in Nietzsche's work but viewed from a different perspective. These are "Morbidity discourse as existence and text"; "Nietzsche vs. nihilism?";

“Nietzsche and "big politics”. A particular emphasis is put on Nietzsche's philosophy of nutrition, the theme of the death of God, and the so-called “perspectivism”.

4. Critical considerations

What has been said here should not be understood as a critical note but rather as an expression of the hope that in time Dr. Zhabilova will thematize the connection between Nietzsche's thesis on the death of God with the line drawn, for example, by D. Bonhoeffer, Harvey Cox, Gianni Vattimo and other postmodern authors.

5. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in our and foreign literature (according to his data).

Seventeen citations and five reviews are listed.

6. Personal impressions of the candidate and other data not specified in the previous points

I know the author as a reasonable professional who can identify new problem areas and provide original solutions. Dialogic and cooperative colleague.

Conclusion:

Based on the mentioned scientific contributions, I propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to unanimously recommend to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology to elect Dr. Kamelia Zhabilova to the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy, 05.01.01, scientific specialty History of Philosophy - Bulgarian Philosophical Culture.

Professor DSc D. Tsatsov