

Statement

by Assoc. Prof. Iassen Zahariev Zahariev, PhD, Department of Philosophy and Sociology, New
Bulgarian University

on

the competition for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty 2.3. *Philosophy, History of Philosophy (Bulgarian Philosophical Culture)* for the needs of the "History of Philosophical and Scientific Ideas" section of the IPS-BAS, announced in the State Gazette, 57, 22. 07. 2022, with candidate Senior Assistant. Kamelia Kirilova Zabilova, PhD

1. Education and Publications

As. Prof. Kamelia Zabilova graduated in philosophy from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1999. She defended her doctoral thesis on "Nietzsche and Bulgarian Philosophical Culture" at BAS in 2004. As. Prof. Zhabilova has been a senior assistant at the BAS since 2010.

The candidate applies for the competition with three publications, which will be reviewed in the next section. It is also important to note the monograph from 2006 - "The Voice of Nietzsche in the work of P.P. Slaveykov", the studies "Aesthetic Thought in the Field of Bulgarian Philosophical Culture" from 2009 and "The Morbid Discourse in Nietzsche" from 2019. As. Prof. Zhabilova is also the author of over 20 articles in Bulgarian and English. She participated in numerous scientific forums and projects, and she was the editor of four issues of the "Philosophical Alternatives" magazine in the period 2014-2021.

2. Scientific research and publications for the competition

The candidate's long-term studies are related to Nietzsche's philosophy, but are not limited to it. An important highlight in Zhabilova's studies are the publications related to Bulgarian philosophical culture. It seems logical then that these two research horizons form a kind of synthesis, ending up in an independent research field - Nietzsche's philosophy in Bulgarian culture.

The research focused on Nietzsche's philosophy and its reception in Bulgaria finds a complete expression in the last monograph of the candidate from 2022 - "Nietzsche. Topoi of the spirit". It

includes some of Zhabilova's earlier publications, which has not hindered the unity of the exhibition, with the exception of the last "Excuse", which ends the book. The chapter has undeniable merits, but it seems to stand aside from the thematic field, developed in the main text of the monograph.

One of the indisputable merits of the work is that the author not only shows her own position regarding the question "How to read Nietzsche", but reconstructs the conditions that make this reading possible in the context of Bulgarian philosophical culture. Zabilova interprets classic themes and ideas from Nietzsche's philosophy using an original approach in which the various texts relate both to each other and to the larger biographical context that plays a primary role in understanding Nietzsche.

The second half of the book is dedicated to the specific spiritual "biography" of Nietzsche in Bulgaria, but even in the first part, which examines the German philosopher's own ideas, the names and positions of a number of Bulgarian authors find a place. Much attention has been paid to the initial receptions of Nietzsche and the translations of his works have been described in detail, as well as the influence of his works on various literary and philosophical writers of the 20th century. As appendices, several valuable chapters are presented at the end of the book, which have an important reference and bibliographical value, as they offer a periodization of Nietzschean influences in Bulgaria, as well as a list of the most important publications on Nietzsche in Bulgarian. According to the author, three periods stand out in the development of Nietzschean ideas in Bulgaria - informative, adaptive and interpretive. Although this distinction is presented somewhat schematically, it also imposes its framework on the work of Dr. Zhabilova, which should be attributed to the last interpretive period.

The candidate's desire to place her research questions in a broader cultural context, where the topics find their points of contact with literature, history, psychology and sociology, makes a good impression. An example of this is the article from 2007 - "The Balkans in the mental cartography of Bulgarian identity", where Pierre Nora's views on places of memory and history through particular shared topoi are used as a key to explain the symbolic meaning of the mountain in the national identifications of the Bulgarians. The conclusion is that if we can imagine the mental cartography of the Bulgarian identity, the Balkans is at the center of the map.

The article "Aesthetic Thought in the Field of Bulgarian Philosophical Culture" from 2009 deserves to be noted, as it is indicative of the scientific activity of the candidate outside the thematic field of Nietzscheanism. The text offers a broad view of the development of aesthetics in Bulgaria through the analysis of typical "figures, stages, theoretical-methodological concepts, discussions". The overview of this vast field, made by Zhabilova, is well structured and within the given volume of twenty pages, gives a good idea of the main directions in the development of Bulgarian literary and philosophical aesthetics. From the literary criticism and aesthetic studies of Dr. K. Krastev to the beginning of our century, the study guides the reader through the main thematic and dialogic fields of aesthetic thought in Bulgaria.

2. General impressions of the candidate and recommendations

My general impressions of the candidate's research and social activities are of a lasting and deep interest in the philosophers and thematic areas listed above, as well as of unequivocal scientific achievements presented in the publications proposed for consideration. I have no particular recommendations to the candidate.

3. Minimum state requirements

According to the attached references, it is clear that Dr. Zhabilova meets the minimum state requirements for the position of "associate professor".

Conclusion:

Bearing in mind what has been stated so far, I consider Kamelia Zhabilova's candidacy for the academic position of "associate professor" to be convincing, **which is why I fully support her.**

Date:

As. Prof. Iassen Zahariev, PhD.