

Standpoint

From: Nikolay Ivanov Turlakov, Assoc. Prof., PhD, IPS at BAS
Regarding: Academic activity and scientific works of Yassen Aleksiev Andreev, Ch. Assist., PhD., provided for competition about academic position "associate professor" in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Ontology), 05.01.16., for the needs of The Department "Ontology and Epistemology" in IPS at BAS , published in The State Gazette, issue 67/04.08.2023.

Reason: Order of the Director of the IFS, No. RD 09-422 from 04/09/2023.

Ch. Assist. Yassen Aleksiev Andreev is the only participant in the competition. He has submitted CV, copy of diplomat for the educational and scientific doctorate degree, list of complete bibliographical data and photocopies of 22 scientific publications (articles and studies) written in Bulgarian, English, German and French languages, list of citations and participations in international forums, an author's reference for the contribution points in the publications with which he participated in the competition, documents for translation work, as well as completed tables for compliance with the minimal national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor", "chief assistant" and for the acquisition of PhD degree.

The materials and documents submitted by Dr. Andreev meets scientific requirements and rules. It is evident from the attached scientometric tables that the scientific activity of the candidate exceeds the minimal national requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor". With all this, the procedure for participation in the competition has been complied.

I have known Dr. Yassen Andreev since 2018, when he successfully applied and took up the position of Ch. Assistant at IPS at BAS (former ISSK-BAS). I would like to emphasize that his joining the ranks of our Institute is a strong addition, because Dr. Andreev is a philosophically erudite, thorough and active colleague in the field of his diverse interests, whose scientific activity is visible not only in our country, but also abroad. He has won many specializations and scholarships abroad, has teaching and translation experience, also he has taken participation in various expert committees and non-governmental organizations. It is not unimportant to note that Dr.

Andreev maintains active scientific contacts and has participated in joint projects with prominent philosophical researchers from abroad.

The scientific publications that Dr. Andreev granted for the competition can be grouped into two main thematic areas:

The one group of studies, these are publications primarily with a historical-philosophical and ontological orientation. In the in-depth historical-philosophical studies, both large-scale in scope and meticulous in clarifying the details, Dr. Andreev searches for the philosophical origins and explores the mutual influence of three of the main directions of the phenomenological movement, namely Edmund's transcendental phenomenology Husserl, the hermeneutic phenomenology of Martin Heidegger and the "mantic" phenomenology of Oskar Becker. On the other hand, ontologically oriented works are guided by one main theme – the question of the meaning of being in Heidegger's works.

The other group of studies, these are publications with a cultural orientation, in which Dr. Andreev proposes "a project for a historically oriented hermeneutics of humanitarian-scientific knowledge and the constitution of its modern scientific and institutional canon."

Since it is not possible to deal with all the topics and publications with which Dr. Andreev participated in the competition within the framework of one opinion, here I will pay attention only to those questions and contributing points that are of interest to me.

In the article "Mathematical principles of Husserl's phenomenology", Dr. Andreev argues the thesis that "modern mathematical theory marks Husserl's philosophical work not just in its "external history", but in its very core". The thesis is that, if from the lectures of Karl Weierstrass and Leopold Kronecker, Husserl perceived the ideal of mathematical precision and certainty, then from the lectures of Brentano he formed the conviction that philosophy can be considered "in the spirit of the most rigorous science" and, accordingly, it should be practiced precisely in this way. It is interesting to argue the thesis that the model of mathematical theory influences not only the methodological attitude and the ideal of rigorous science, but also refers to the "research problematic" of Husserl's philosophy. Contributing to the philosophy of mathematics here is the clarification of how for Husserl "the series of natural numbers becomes a philosophical problem" and how Husserl proceeds

"beyond the arithmeticalization of mathematics and beyond the logicization of arithmetic to its 'radicale Begründung'."

The topic of the relationship between phenomenological philosophy and mathematics is continued in the articles "Oscar Becker: Mathematical Existence in a Phenomenological Context" and "Phenomenology and Mathematics in Oskar Becker" (as well as in the English version of this article entitled "Notes on the Dialogue between Phenomenology and Mathematics: Husserl and Becker"). Here, in addition to clarifying the genesis of Husserl's idea of phenomenology in relation to the mathematical debates of his time from the perspective of Becker's philosophy, the clarification of Becker's attempt to resolve the dispute between intuitionist and formalist meta-mathematics in the light of phenomenology is helpful. Interestingly, many parallels have been drawn between Husserl's and Frege's conceptions of the reduction of all kinds of numbers to the natural numbers, as well as the idea of the universal nature of number. I am convinced that colleagues who deal with the philosophy of mathematics could point to many other merits and contributions in these works of Dr. Andreev.

In the articles with an ontological focus - "What is the question? Introductory notes to Magda King's translation, "The Meaning of Being as its Empty Secret", "Die Seinsfrage according to its material and formal meaning. Foreword to the translation of Dorothea Frede's studies The Question of Being: The Heideggerian Project, "Toward a Concept of Respective Handling in For-Yes - Contexts in Being and Time" foregrounds the problem of Heidegger's Question of Being (die Seinsfrage).

The contribution of the last of the above-mentioned articles is the clarification of the concept proposed by Heidegger in "Being and Time" of the "For-Yes" observational handling as different both from the "dichotomous interpretation of the concept of activity and from the value-theoretically interpreted goal- means, and from the causal understanding of this means as causal". In the rest of the ontologically oriented articles, a major theme, albeit present in different ways, is the question of what the very meaning of Heidegger's question about the meaning of being (die Seinsfrage) is in general.

This is a resourceful approach to Heidegger's fundamental theme of being. Based on the influential interpretations of Dorothea Frede, Magda King, and Hans Blumenberg, Dr. Andreev succeeds in pointing out and elucidating the various meanings with which the question of being appears in Heidegger's works. There are

many successful insights and contributing moments here. Of interest is the peculiar and provocative introduction ("The Being and its empty secret") by Yassen Andreev to the translation of Hans Blumenberg's essay ("The Being MacGuffin: How to preserve our desire to think"). Blumenberg's essay itself is as curious as it is provocative.

My question here to Dr. Andreev is to what extent he agrees with Blumenberg's understanding that, for Heidegger, the word "Being" is a kind of "MacGuffin" – a mystery, which, however, means something empty and insignificant? I ask this question because I am puzzled how, if the question of being for Heidegger is something empty and insignificant, it turns out to be the engine for a new beginning of philosophizing, around the scope of which the most penetrating and original philosophical debates swirl to this day? I am also at a loss as to why into his late works after "das Sein" Heidegger needed to introduce the phrase "das Seyn", if this would only serve to keep up the "suspense" or, in other words, the interest and tension to his philosophy? In short, my question is this: How convincing is Blumenberg's example of the meaning of the Hitchcockian terms "suspense" and "MacGuffin" as an explanation of Heidegger's problem of being? I ask these questions for reflection and out of professional interest in the subject, but I do not want them to be answered here, because I am aware that they stand apart from the merits and purpose of Dr. Andreev's admirably written introduction to Blumenberg's essay.

In the introductory notes to the translation of Magda King's guide, entitled "What's the Question?", Yassen Andreev clarifies King's five main arguments about the difficulties facing the reader of Heidegger's philosophical texts. This is a strongly written text in the spirit of the best academic examples, where Dr. Andreev demonstrates not only his penetrating understanding, but also contributes to the clarification of one of the most difficult topics in Heidegger, and in philosophy in general. Particularly valuable here is the distinction and clarification of the question of the meaning of the word "being" from the question of the meaning of "being as being".

Culturally oriented works are no less interesting, courageous and valuable. From the detailed review of the problems in interpretive humanities from the beginning of the 19-th century to the peculiar project of a general historical hermeneutics of the modern historical-philological culturalology, there are many original formulations and moments here. Dr. Andreev's contribution is significant in clarifying and conceptualizing the fundamental transition in the humanities from the traditional

understanding of knowledge as based on erudition and style to the understanding that knowledge always represents some kind of "innovative result" that, in the field of science, is achieved and ensured in the research method.

My overall assessment of the quality of the works proposed by the candidate for participation in the competition is as high as possible.

The contributions indicated by Dr. Yassen Andreev correspond to what was actually achieved in the proposed works.

I have no conflict of interest and have no joint publications with the candidate.

Conclusion:

Based on the distinguished achievements, scientific merits and contributions in the scientific works granted for the competition, as well as on the basis of the active scientific, teaching, translational and expert activity of the candidate, I give my categorically positive vote and offer the respected members of the Scientific Jury to unanimously support the candidacy of Ch. Assistant professor Dr. Yassen Aleksiev Andreev for the position of "Associate Professor" in professional direction 2.3. Philosophy (Ontology), code 05.01.16., for the needs of the "Ontology and Epistemology" Department at the IFS at the BAS.

Sofia, 2023-12-11

Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Turlakov, Phd

Signature: