

OPINION

on the scientific work and academic activities of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Yasen Andreev submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional field of 2.3 Philosophy (Ontology),

for the needs of the Ontology and Epistemology section

prepared by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boris D. Grozdanoff Section “Philosophy of Science”
Institute for Philosophical Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)

For his participation in the competition, Dr. Yasen Andreev presents 22 publications, which meet and exceed the minimum national requirements accepted by BAS for scientific and teaching activities of candidates for acquiring an academic degree and for the position of “Associate Professor” in scientific areas and professional fields, as defined according to the Classifier of areas of higher education and professional directions, approved with Council of Ministers Decree № 125 of 2002 (State Gazette, issue 64 of 2002). (Decision of the Academic Council of BAS from 22.10.2018) for Area 2. Humanities.

I confirm that the documents submitted by the candidate for the competition correspond to the stated line for covering the minimum national requirements. From the documents submitted for the competition, especially the publications, it is evident that Dr. Andreev has extensive experience in the field of ontology, for which the competition is announced. Noteworthy is the number of publications, the languages of their publication (Bulgarian, German, French, and English), and the wide range of problems from the field, which are addressed in Dr. Andreev's work. Dr. Andreev's academic interests and expertise are clearly positioned in the field of Continental Philosophy, with leading authors in his research being Martin Heidegger and Edmund Husserl.

It is impressive that Dr. Andreev also explores comparatively the problems at the border between Continental and Analytical philosophy, such as the problem of the logical and psychological nature of the fundamental concepts of arithmetic (in the article Notes on the Dialogue between Phenomenology and Mathematics: Husserl and Becker) and the problems of the arithmetization of mathematics and the reduction of numbers to natural numbers, (in the article Notes on the Dialogue between Phenomenology and Mathematics: Husserl and Becker).

For the purposes of this opinion, I will focus on the contributions in the following publications:

Notes on the Dialogue between Phenomenology and Mathematics: Husserl and Becker. in: *Studia Phaenomenologica. Phenomenology and the Sciences: Between Foundation, Clarification, and Material Contributions*. Volume XXIV, (ISSN:1582-5647), 2023.

Husserl's Mathematical Principles of Phenomenology. in: *Non-classical Science. Science and Pseudoscience*. Angel Stefanov (ed.), "Paradigma" Publishing House, Sofia, 2021, (ISBN: 978-954-326-461-2), pp. 64-82.

Die Mathematische Existenz aus phänomenologischer Sicht. in: Ginev, Dimitri (Ed.) *Aspects of the Phenomenological Theory of Science. Orbis Phaenomenologicus: Perspectives, New Series 21*, Publisher: Königshausen und Neumann, Würzburg, 2008, (ISBN: 978-3-8260-3721-4), pp. 136-154.

Phenomenology in Alternative-1927. in: *Paths of Philosophy in the Modern World*. Raynova, Ivanka (ed.), Sofia, Bulgarian Phenomenological Center, BPS & IAF, 2004, pp. 107-125.

La phénoménologie au carrefour-1927, in: *Divinatio. Studia Culturologica Series*, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société, (ISSN:1310-9456), vol. 12, 2000, pp. 137-145.

I believe that the colleagues from the scientific jury will predominantly focus on the other works of Dr. Andreev, while these five are positioned at the border of communication between Continental and Analytical traditions in Western philosophy and thus are significantly closer to my professional competence. The stated contributions:

1. Critically reconstructs the two circles of the complex dialogue between phenomenological philosophy and mathematics, as they are documented in Husserl's *Philosophy of Arithmetic* from 1891 and Becker's *Mathematical Existence* from 1927.
2. Argues the position that it is precisely the radical problems of clarifying logical and mathematical basic concepts that motivate the very beginning of Husserl's phenomenology.
3. Critically analyzes the significance and structure of Husserl's explanation of the "logical and psychological" nature of the fundamental arithmetic concepts.
4. Special attention is given to the psychologistic strategy of the *Philosophy of Arithmetic* (1891) to analyze natural numbers in terms such as mental phenomena and psychic data, representations, presentations, and re-presentations.
5. Clarifies the debate about the "mathematical roots and beginnings" of Husserl's phenomenology.
6. Shows that the *Arithmetisierungsprogramm* gives rise to a specific problem context as a critical reaction, against which phenomenological philosophy is constituted as a philosophical position.

7. Draws numerous parallels between Husserl and Frege. Both Husserl and Frege rely on the reduction of all kinds of numbers to natural numbers, and both perceive the idea of number as having a universal nature (universalissimum).
8. Traces Husserl's step beyond the arithmetization of analysis and beyond the logicization of elementary arithmetic towards a radical foundation of the most elementary mathematical discipline.
9. Critically examines the problem of the role of the doctrine of constitutive analysis (phänomenologische Konstitutionsanalyse) in the course of reformulating the phenomenological program in the direction of a hermeneutic-ontological conception.

are categorically present in these publications as contributions to both the History of Philosophy and Continental Ontology. Dr. Andreev is familiar the issues extremely professionally and in detail, and obviously his very good knowledge of the history of the problems and debates on them helps him significantly in achieving and defending the stated contributions. In particular, I would emphasize contributions (1), (3), and (5) as their significance for the History of Philosophy and Ontology is undoubtedly serious. My personal position on the problems of the nature of the basic logical and mathematical concepts, as well as on the "most elementary mathematical discipline", differs significantly both in methods and conclusions from Dr. Andreev, but this in no way affects the contributory nature of all the contributions formulated and present in the submitted scientific texts.

In connection with the contributions, I have one somewhat tangential remark, which mainly concerns contribution (8). On page 67 in footnote (4) Dr. Andreev comments, "And modern mathematics not only in the face of its most elementary discipline – the second part of Husserl 1983 documents Husserl's works on geometry", implicitly accepting Husserl's thesis-project (following the line of Weierstrass and especially Kronecker, as Dr. Andreev elaborates in detail in the text) my note is redundant; but in the hypothesis that Dr. Andreev accepts this thesis as his own (for which the text and contribution (8) give grounds), effectively present and in the contemporary debate on the Philosophy of Mathematics (in which Husserl, obviously, cannot participate), such a statement ignores a large number of debates in contemporary philosophy of mathematics about the true "most elementary" mathematical discipline, namely one that by virtue of its elementary nature, aiming at maximum power by generality can serve as a kind of basis for other(s) mathematical disciplines, which are developed in a higher order of complexity (such as the discipline of geometry mentioned in footnote (4)). Without delving into the debate, which is unnecessary for the current purposes of the Opinion, I want to draw attention to the fact that hypotheses 1. Geometry is of equal or lower complexity (as a potentially interesting argument in its favor, it can be

emphasized the earliest axiomatization of a mathematical discipline, that of geometry in Euclid's *Elements*, which remains the only one until the first historical axiomatizations of arithmetic such as those of Peirce (1881) and Peano (1889), i.e., More than 2000 years after Euclid) and implicit in the footnote 2. Another discipline, other than arithmetic and geometry, such as Set Theory (following the later line of Cantor against Kronecker) or Category Theory, are of lower complexity than that of "elementary" arithmetic, are definitely in strong positions in contemporary debates in the philosophy of mathematics and can neither be nor should be casually ignored with such or another footnote. I do not find that the statements in the papers need to address these two hypotheses, rather I would direct the candidate in eventual future works on the published problems to take into account and expand the contemporary debate on elementary and generality in the foundations of mathematics, I find that his research will only benefit from such attention.

I acknowledge and affirm that the contributions presented in the texts submitted for the competition are valid and contribute to the development of the disciplinary fields in which the studies and articles are positioned. I find that these contributions meet and indeed exceed the academic requirements for the position of 'Associate Professor' as defined by Bulgarian law. I do not have any joint publications with the candidate and there is no conflict of interest between us.

I recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to propose to the Scientific Council of the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, to appoint Dr. Yassen Andreev to the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field of Philosophy (Ontology), for the needs of the Section of Ontology and Epistemology.

Associate Professor Dr. Boris Grozdanoff
Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
Sofia, December 18, 2023.