

OPINION

by Professor Tsvetan Parvanov Davidkov, D.Sc.
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with regard to a competition for Professor in Professional Field 3.1 Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences - for the needs of the PUBLIC POLICIES AND SOCIAL CHANGES section of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the BAS (the competition was announced in SG, issue 58/09-07-2024 and protocol No. 16 / 03-09-24 of the SC of the IPhS at BAS).

The opinion is prepared on the grounds of Order RD 09-253-6/09-09-2024 of the Director of IPhS for the appointment of a jury for conducting the competition and Minutes of the first meeting of the scientific jury (13-09-2024).

Candidates. In the abovementioned competition for a professorship, the *only candidate* is Associate Professor, D.Sc. Maria Dimitrova Jeliaskova. Ms M. Jeliaskova is well known and highly valued in the sociological professional community. It is evident from her academic CV (and other documents) that she: a) has solid base and upgrading / developing background; b) has many years of research and teaching experience - appearing at scientific forums and through publications; c) has successful project experience, incl. at the international level; d) participates actively and successfully in various formats as an expert and consultant to support the work of scientific and professional communities, incl. to bodies for the formation of social and public policies at the central and international level. The scientific work of colleague M. Jeliaskova is at a high level. The forementioned gives me a reason to assert that she is an appropriate candidate for participation in the announced competition for a professorship.

Does the candidate meet the formal requirements for participation in the competition? - YES. Grounds: She meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Application; also the requirements of the RULES of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions, as follows: Art. 5, item 4; Art. 6 (2), (3); Art. 41; Art. 42; Art. 43; Art. 44; Art. 45; Art. 46; Art. 47; Art. 48¹.

¹ By mentioning the relevant texts of the Institute's Rules I endorse both that the candidate meets the requirements, and the correctness of the procedures held until now.

As evident from the presented proofs, the applicant meets and exceeds the *minimum requirements* (including science-metric ones) for participation in the competition².

Principal valuation of the publications presented for participation in the competition.

The candidate participates in the competition for professorship with 21 publications, as follows: a) 1 published monograph (main habilitation thesis) (No. 1 of the list of publications); b) 3 published monographs that are not the main habilitation thesis (No. 2, 3, 4); c) 1 published article in an edited collective volume (No. 5); d) 4 published studies in scientific issues, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (No. 6, 7, 8, 9); e) 8 published studies in non-referenced journals with scientific review or in edited scientific volumes (No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17); f) 4 published chapters in collective monographs (No. 18, 19, 20, 21). The author is an independent author of the monograph - main habilitation thesis - Jeliaskova, M. (2024) *The Polarized Bulgarian society: persistent poverty and toxic inequalities*. Publishing House "Polis", Sofia. She is also an independent author of publications No. 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18. The other texts are co-authored³. Some of the published texts are in Bulgarian language; a significant part – in English and other languages. This fact favors the recognition and evaluation of the publications in a wider professional community. Some of the texts have been presented before authoritative scientific forums. The characterized publications (in accordance with the requirements) have not been used during the candidate's participation in previous competitions. They have been published relatively rhythmically during the period 2018 – 2024. In general, the publications are from publishers with authority and a high rating.

My main constatations and conclusions on the basis of the review of the mentioned publications are as follows:

- *A scientific diligence* is at place - this is an important prerequisite with significant potential for the production of valuable scientific results.
- The author's works are consistent - as a common denominator of her interests and publications, related problem-thematic centers can be indicated, as follows: stratification and social inequalities (including political relativity) - poverty - demographic situation and demographic crisis - labor market - employment policies - social exclusion - young people in the field of work, etc. Colleague M. Jeliaskova - undoubtedly - is familiar with these sensitive areas and feels "well at ease" to explore them. The mentioned and the substantive analysis of the

² See, as follows: Individual science-metric indicators on ... already acquired Ph.D. degree; Individual science-metric indicators for acquiring the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"; Reference on the quantitative science-metric indicators of ... presented in the competition for professorship; Individual science-metric indicators of... for meeting the minimum requirements for the scientific position "professor".

³ Attributive protocols are presented with regard to the co-authored texts.

presented publications gives grounds to conclude that the author has a clearly defined field of research interests. She works purposefully and systematically develops the methodology and methodic of scientific research in the indicated sphere. The researched topics and problems demonstrate *continuity and upgrade* and are a logical follow-up of previous and ongoing scientific pursuits.

- Through specific publications the author identifies and includes in “the agenda” of fellow researchers and society new and little-noticed phenomena and regularities (see the reference on contributions).

- The quality of publications is high - the author works in compliance with high standards for scientific and publishing activities. An evidence in that respect are the publications in prestigious editions and the individual indicators of the author as well.

- As a rule, results from serious researches are interpreted in the texts. This enhances their value and solidifies the synthesis between theoretical-methodological and empirical-applied.

- The results achieved can be used multidimensionally.

- The monograph - main habilitation thesis - is a mature work in which the author has synthesized her long-term professional and research experience. My independent evaluation of the monograph is unequivocally positive.

Assessment of the scientific contributions. In the reference of scientific contributions the latter are defined in seven major groups (for each group the publications, which contain the relevant proofs are adequately mentioned).

- I accept the scientific contributions claim - they are real and well-described; appropriate support with evidence is available.

- The contributions may be classified as: a) with theoretic-methodological focus (No. 1, 2, 3); b) related to definition and development of research tools (No. 4, 7); c) new knowledge and creation of results through which existing theses are confirmed and hypotheses are tested (No. 3, 4, 5); d) results of applicable nature (could be used by a wide range of interested parties) (No. 6 and others).

The contributions are sufficiently convincing as an argument for the quality of the candidate’s characterized research, publication and academic activities.

Personal impressions. I have known the colleague Assoc. Prof., D.Sc. Maria Dimitrova Jeliakova for more than 40 years. I highly value her professional and personal qualities. I am well convinced that her entire professional activity is very useful for the development of science and the community.

Conclusion. On the basis of the above-mentioned, a conclusion may be drawn that the candidate Assoc. Prof., D.Sc. MARIA JELIAZKOVA, in the competition for Professor in Professional Field 3.1 Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences - for the needs of the PUBLIC POLICIES AND SOCIAL CHANGES section of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the BAS, meets all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Application and the RULES of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions.

The above gives me the grounds to support a resolution for appointment of the colleague Assoc. Prof., D.Sc. Maria Jeliaskova at the academic position of PROFESSOR.

I wish her all the success.

Sofia, 19-10-2024

Signature:

(Prof. D.Sc. Tsvetan Davidkov)