

OPINION

from

*Prof. D. Sc. Borislav Gradinarov, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology,
BAS,*

concerning

*the competition for the academic position of „associate professor“, announced in
the State Gazette, no. 58 of 09. 07. 2024 on professional direction 2.3.*

*"Philosophy" for the needs of the "Religion, Beliefs, World View" section of the
IFS-BAS*

1. Information about the contest

The competition has been announced for the needs of the "Religion, Beliefs, World View" section at IFS - BAS according to the decision of the Institute's Scientific Council (Protocol No. 16/03.09.2024).

I participate in the composition of the scientific jury for the competition on the basis of Order No. RD 09-253-5/09.09.2024 of the Director of IFS - BAS.

2. Brief information about the candidates in the competition

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by only one candidate - Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov Angelov, Ch. assistant in the "Religion, Beliefs, Worldview" section at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, BAS.

He was born on November 18, 1968. He graduated from the Theological Faculty of the "St. Kliment Ohridski" with the educational degree "master" in 2001, and since 2008 he also holds a master's degree in philosophy. His master's thesis in theology was entitled "The Transcendental Dialectic of Immanuel Kant in its relation to theology", and his master's thesis in philosophy was entitled "The Philosophy of Martin Heidegger in its Self-Constitution as a Fundamental Ontology".

The candidate holds two ONS "Doctor". In 2007, he defended his doctoral dissertation in theology on the topic "The transcendental dialectic of Immanuel Kant and its relation to theology" at the Faculty of Theology of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", and in 2015 he also defended his thesis in philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski on the topic "The problem of Dasein in the fundamental ontology of Martin Heidegger".

In October 2017, he was appointed as an assistant in the "Religion, Beliefs, Worldview" section at IFS - BAS, and since May 2019 he has been the main assistant in the same section.

Based on the presented data, it can be concluded that the candidate meets the requirements of Art. 36 of PPNSZAD-IFS-BAS regarding the availability of minimum experience in the specialty (5 years).

3. Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position

The technical commission for the verification of the regularity of the documents has allowed participation in the competition for the occupation of the scientific position "associate professor" chap. Assistant Professor Tsvetelin Angelov, Ph.D.

The additional check for fulfillment of the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 1 of ZRASRB and of Art. 1a, paragraph 1 of the PPZRASRB, carried out on the basis of the submitted data and in fulfillment of the obligation of the scientific jury under Art. 4, para. 1 of the ZRASRB and art. 2, para. 2 of PPZRASRB, has found that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements for holding the competitive academic position. From the scientometric table presented for the competition by Tsvetelin Angelov, it is clear that the candidate has the required minimum number of points in the mandatory sections for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions in the Bulgarian Academy of the sciences.

Within the period of work of the scientific jury, there were no reports of a violation under Art. 4, para. 5, item 3 of the ZRASRB and under Art. 53, paragraph 1, item 5 of the PPZRASRB.

On the basis of the above, I believe that there is no obstacle to proceeding with the assessment of the results, the scientific contribution and the originality of the works presented.

4. General description of the presented materials

For assessment in the competition for associate professor ch. assistant professor Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov has presented a total of 19 scientific publications, including one monograph, seven studies and eleven articles.

As already stated above, the candidate holds two ONS "doctors" - in philosophy and in theology. When comparing the data from the scientometric tables submitted by the applicant, it was found that the publications applied to prove the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements for the ONS "Doctor", as well as those for holding the scientific position "principal assistant", are not repeated with those presented in the current competition for the acquisition of the scientific position of associate professor.

5. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and pedagogical activities

Based on the data reflected in the candidate's CV at the time of the competition, the results of the scientific activity dominate. In the attached autobiographical reference, it is stated that the candidate is the author of 35 articles

and studies published in various collections and magazines (including electronic ones). They cover a wide range of problem areas – philosophy of religion, ontology, logic, history of philosophy, metaphysics, philosophical anthropology, ethics, etc.

Ch. Associate Professor Tsvetelin Angelov is a member of the Bulgarian Philosophical Society as well as the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria. He was also the editor of two collections of scholarly articles - "Religious Identity and Worldview - 3 (Hegel's Philosophy and Religion - 250 Years G. Hegel" (2021) and "Hegel's Philosophical System and the Philosophy of Religion - 250 Years . since the birth and 190 years since the death of G. V. Hegel" (2022).

6. Academic activity of the candidate since the beginning of his career

In the presented biographical reference, it is stated that the candidate was a part-time assistant in philosophy at the Faculty of Theology of SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" (2002-2005), and in the period 2006-2016 he was a philosophy teacher in secondary education.

7. Content analysis of the candidate's scientific achievements

The main weight among the scientific works submitted for evaluation is occupied by the monograph of the candidate with the title "Philosophical Dimensions of the Divine Absolute" (IC Propeller) with a volume of 420 pages. In it, an overlapping and key question for theology and philosophy is put up for discussion - what is God and whether under this concept the two fundamental humanitarian disciplines understand the same or different entities. In the analysis of this problem ch. Asst.Cv. Angelov demonstrates the breadth of his scientific horizons and the ability to delve into the depth of things without compromising the clarity of the exposition and falling into excessive abstraction and speculation. At the same time, he demonstrates deep historical-philosophical knowledge, especially of the ideological richness and terminological multi-layeredness of two of the most famous representatives of the science of wisdom - Immanuel Kant and Georg Hegel.

Very interesting and competent, in my opinion, are the analyzes of the differences between common sense and reason, the "distinction ... already available in ancient philosophy", which is fully and comprehensively explicated precisely in German classical philosophy (p. 51). I would also note the interesting and solidly supported by philosophical and theological theoretical culture reasoning about the ontological argument for the existence of God. This is a problem with solid roots in the history of human intelligence. But significantly more curious, in my opinion, is the cosmological argument that ch. Asst.Cv. Angelov also presents an extensive and competent analysis. Particularly interesting for the reader is the third chapter of the monograph, which, in addition to the concepts of Kant and Hegel for the philosophical understanding of the Divine Absolute, also includes the ideological heritage of Spinoza and Heidegger. I would also note the originality of the critical

analysis of the general framework as well as some key ideas of postmodernism. But the main merit of the monograph is that it defends the thesis that in their fundamental ideas (such as those about the Absolute) philosophy and theology have more points of contact and similar positions than we are accustomed to accept. The monograph is written with the ability to present the complex problems of theology and philosophy in a logical and comprehensible way, without simplifying the terminology and saving complex conceptual constructs that are key to both disciplines.

The nature and volume of the opinion do not allow for a more detailed examination of all the publications attached by the applicant. But I would single out the studies "Philosophical analysis of theological consequences in teleology" with the interesting reasoning (based on some key ideas of Kant) about teleology and the anthropic principle.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that the issue of the Divine Absolute is not the reserved territory of religion or theology. In the candidate's words, "the question of God...determines the appearance of every single philosophical paradigm in ontological, logical, epistemological, anthropological and ethical-axiological terms". In agreeing with this statement of the candidate, I want to emphasize once again the importance of the ideas he develops.

8. In the case of collective publications – determination of the candidate's contribution

In the inventory prepared by the candidate of the scientific publications submitted for this competition, there is no information about co-authorship. He is the independent author of all articles, studies and monographs listed and submitted for the competition.

9. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in our and foreign literature

The candidate has submitted a list of references and citations to his publications and research noticed at the time of the competition. They are mostly in scientific publications with similar issues, but there are also those from more distant fields, such as the compendium on the contacts between Buddhism and modern science "Harmony in Differences" (2019) or coll. "The Ethos of the Enlightenment" (2023).

In the attached table for NACID, the total number of points for the candidate is 510, which indicates that there will be no obstacle in the registration Dr. Tsv. Angelov, if elected as associate professor. Here, I should point out that the required minimum of points laid down in the requirements of PPZRASRB of BAS, which are stricter compared to the general requirements of NACID, are 430.

10. Critical notes of the reviewer on the presented works

I have no significant critical comments on the works presented, as long as they present a problem in which there is room for different interpretations and gives the opportunity for a variety of argumentation of the defended theses.

But in view of the nature of the procedure, which requires an element of active presentation of the candidate, I would like to ask him a question. If the Divine Absolute is not just a convenient categorical construct for philosophers and theologians, something like the first cause of everything, which offers them convenient and logical arguments, and cosmological and even technological grounds for its existence can be distinguished, is it possible to formulate the ultimate moment of its teleologicality. In other words, what would its purpose be?

11. Personal impressions of the candidate

I vaguely know ch. Assistant Dr. Tsvetelin Nikolov. From my few interactions with him, I have formed the feeling of a proper and ethical colleague with a strong sense of responsibility and dialogue. I believe that with the scientific and personal qualities demonstrated in the competition, he will be a good addition to the habilitation staff of the "Religion, Beliefs, Worldview" section at the IFS-BAS.

12. Conclusion

In conclusion of the above, I believe that ch. assistant professor Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov Angelov meets the legal requirements and possesses the necessary scientific qualities, well protected by the publications and appearances presented in the competition.

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I vote positively and propose to the Scientific Council of IFS to choose Ch. assistant professor Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov as "associate professor" for the needs of the "Religion, Beliefs, Worldview" section at IFS-BAN.

October 18, 2024.

(Prof. B. Gradinarov)