

STATEMENT
of Prof. Dr. Ivo Angelov Hristov
"Paisii Hilendarski" University

Subject.

This opinion is given in my capacity as an external member of the jury for the competition for "Associate Professor" on the basis of Order No. RD 09 - 253.4/Sofia of 09.09.2024 of the Director of the IFU-BAS with Dr. Georgi Medarov as the sole candidate.

All necessary and required documents have been submitted by the candidate within the legal deadline, namely:

1. List of publications as follows:

2013. Sofia.2013. "The Transition and the Transcendence of Transition". 7.2013. Kliment Ohridski 104.
- 2013: Bulgaria's Postcommunist Debate about the Holocaust. Global Dialogue 3(4). International Sociological Association.
- 2013: Land Concentration, Land Grabbing and Land Conflicts in Europe. The Case of Boynitsa in Bulgaria in Land Concentration, Land Grabbing and People's Struggles in Europe, edited by Borrás, S., Franco, J., van der Ploeg, J.. Amsterdam: Transnational Institute.
- 2013: 'Some Preconditions for the Contemporary Crisis of Representative Democracy in Bulgaria'. Anamnesis no. 3.
- 2014: (co-authored with M. Nikolova). 'Interpretive stakes in biographical accounts of academic cultures of dissent since the 1980s'. Nail no. 8.
- 2014: (collective monograph co-authored with Nikolova, M., and Tsoneva, M.). Politics without politics. "Us" and "Them" in protests and the crisis of representation. Sofia.
- 2015: (co-authored with Tsoneva, J., Hristov, M., and Kasabov, O.) Entrepreneurial spirit and ghost entrepreneurs: expert knowledge, neoliberal governance and social suffering. Sofia: Public Interventions Collective.
- 2015: (co-authored with Martin Marinov). "The Rhetoric of Volen Siderov and the Rise of Ataka." in Fred Leplad (ed.). The Far Right in Europe, London: Lighting Source.
- 2015: 'Communism is Evil'. Sociological Problems 1-2: 227-251.
- 2016: 'When is Populism Acceptable? ". Contemporary Southeastern Europe 3(2): 67-86.
- 2017: 'The Freemasons are in Parliament! The political economy of conspiracies in Bulgaria's judicial reform.' Journal of Judicial Reform. Critique and Humanism 48: 147-164.
- 2017: 'Historical context and political stakes of the discursive theory of populism'. Political Studies 1-2017. Sociology, Sociology Department, Sofia University, Sofia.
2019. Post-Privatization Water Struggles in Sofia, Bulgaria." Water Alternatives 12(2) 438-458.
- 2020: 'The new coronavirus and the modern management of super modernity'. Heterodoxy 1-2/20: 369-389.
- 2020: 'The Contradictory Images of Totalitarianism in Contemporary Bulgarian Historiographies'. in Psihlogia Sociala 46 (II)/2020.
- 2021: (co-authored with Zhanna Tsoneva) "The Thorny Crown of Labor", in: Collective (ed.) Labor from Crisis to Crisis: Notes from the Pandemic, Sofia: KOI.
- 2021: 'Towards a reflexive theory of crisis'. Sociological Problems 1: 110-130.
- 2022: 'Crisis in public and national holidays: on the case studies of Gabrovo, Varshets and Kosty'. Problems of Postmodernity 1: 7-31.

2022: 'The Roots of the Moralization of Politics in Post-1989 Bulgaria'. in Gagy, A., Slacalek, O. (Eds.) The Political Economy of Eastern Europe 30 years into the 'Transition'. London: Palgrave Macmillan (International Political Economy Series).

2023: 'Direct and indirect discrimination in Marx and Arendt'. Kellyan, M. (ed.) Communities and Identities. Jubilee volume in honor of Prof. D. Tanya Nedelcheva, 279-293.

2023: 'Propaganda and public opinion: Lippmann, Dewey and Bernays read today'. Sociological Problems. 55, 1: 142-162.

2023: "Race and crisis: a critical history of the production of communal difference." Sociological Problems. 55,2: 425-441.

2023: The global context of local culinary festivals in Bulgaria. in Kellyan, M. (ed.) Local festivals: resources, traditions, change. Sofia: Orion Press.

2024: "Civil Society". in: Naum Trajkovski (ed.) Conflicts over History and Memory. Forum ZFD: Skopje.

2024: Race and class in classical and non-classical sociology. Sofia: Orion Press

For the purposes of this competition, according to the requirements of the law, only the publications made after the doctoral dissertation of Dr. Medarov, namely "From Liberalism to Authoritarianism". Kliment Ohridski" from 2017.

Also presented:

2. Author's note on the candidate's contributions;
3. Summaries of the publications submitted for the competition;
4. A statement of points for the minimum requirements for the award of "Associate Professor";
5. Reference for participation in international scientific forums;
6. Citation reference for the competition for "Associate Professor";
7. Candidate's scientific CV.

From the analysis of the documents submitted by the only candidate, Dr. Georgi Medarov, it is that in my opinion they meet the formal legal requirements, as well as the substantive scientific requirements concerning contribution, necessary publication and academic activity, citation and employment of the candidate. In this respect, I have no formal or substantive comments to make on the documents submitted.

Insofar as the main habilitation work submitted for the purposes of the competition is the monograph 'Race and Class in Classical and Non-Classical Sociology', I shall refer to it very briefly. The monograph represents a natural continuation of Dr. Medarov's research interests and pursuits over the past years. On the one hand, the issues of social inequalities, a traditional topic in sociological research, have their solid tradition both internationally and in the traditions of the Bulgarian classical sociological tradition. On the other hand, linking issues of social class inequalities with the category of "race" is relatively unconventional for most research in this country. This is understandable insofar as the subject matter is widely and diversely covered by multiple sociological traditions and paradigms, especially in the United States and Western Europe, where this social problem is particularly acute, even more intertwined with issues of social inequalities and exploitation. In our context, this multifaceted phenomenon has gained relevance especially in the conditions of the so-called "transition" after 1989, and is mostly related to the status of Roma communities in our country. community here.

As Dr. Medarov aptly notes in his monograph, the classical expectations of traditional sociology, from the moment of its inception, were that these social "hardenings" would be diluted in the course of modernization. Nothing of the sort is happening. On the contrary, the classic social class distinctions and inequalities characteristic of classical Modernity societies are being transformed into racial, ethnic, sexual, cultural, etc.

On the other hand, Chapter 7 of the monograph makes a serious contribution, which, following the in-depth sociohistorical analysis of the categories of "race", "classes", etc. in the United States and the

elaborated and developed sociological paradigms, which are anyway based on the experience of classical and late Modernity, as well as the postmodern era, all these narratives acquire a new sound in the Bulgarian social context in the course of the Transition.

Trends on the experience of Roma communities in the country are explored in detail, on how social differences and discrimination are being ethicized, racialized and entirely new social phenomena - subclasses based on ethnicity and race - are emerging. These processes are extremely disturbing and contain the potential to explode the social status quo under the relevant social and geopolitical conditions.

I find Dr. Medarov's monograph extremely topical and with valuable contributions, therefore based on all the documents submitted for the purpose of this competition:

I propose that Dr. Georgi Medarov be appointed to the academic position of Associate Professor in the specialty of Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences (Racialization and Ethnicization of Inequalities and Identities in Contemporary Societies), in accordance with the terms of the competition announced for the needs of the Section "Communities and Identities" of the IFS-BAS, promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 58, July 9, 2024.

Sofia
18.10.2024 r.

Prof. Dr. Ivo Hristov