

OPINION

on the competition for the academic position “Professor” in professional field 2.1. Philology (Japanese literature and culture), announced in SG 21/17.03.2020 by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Assoc. prof. Vladimir Nikolaev Vladov, PhD
Department of Classical and Eastern Languages and Cultures
Faculty of Modern Languages, “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of
Veliko Tarnovo,
Member of the Academic Jury (Decree №RD 38-150/23.03.2020)

Assoc. prof. Gergana Rumenova Petkova, PhD is the only applicant who has submitted their papers for the academic position “professor” in professional field 2.1. Philology (Japanese literature and culture) announced in SG 21/17.03.2020 within the deadline. The members of the Academic Jury were selected by decree of the rector of Sofia University №RD 38-150/23.03.2020, and its first session was held on 20.07.2020. There have been no violations of the terms and conditions outlined in the ADASRB (Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), RAADASRB (Regulations for the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria) and the *Regulations on the conditions and procedures for the acquisition of scientific degrees and academic positions of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”* (RCPASDAPSU). The documentation was presented in full and in compliance with the regulatory requirements.

The application fully complies with the terms outlined in article 115, subparagraphs 1 and 2, section V of *RCPASDAPSU* and covers the minimal national requirements for the acquisition of the academic position “professor” in higher education area 2. *Humanities*, professional field 2.1. *Philology*. Assoc. prof. Gergana Petkova, PhD has earned her

“Doctor of Philosophy” degree at the University of Zurich (23.06.2004), which was affirmed and acknowledged by the Higher Attestation Commission (HAC) in protocol №37/07.12.2005 for the degree Doctor – *Literature of the peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia*, 05.04.06. The successfully defended PhD thesis, *Male Characters in The Japanese Fairy Tale: Classification and Analysis*, was published in Sofia in 2009.

Gergana Petkova graduated from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, with excellent marks in 1999 and went on to earn a Master’s degree in Japanese studies majoring in Japanese literature. The following four years she spent at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Zurich, earning her PhD. She taught part-time at the Department of Languages and Cultures of East Asia at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at the University of Sofia between 2003 and 2007, after which she was hired full-time. She earned her associate professor rank in 2012 and has been with the FCMP at SU since then. Since June 2018, she has been the head of the newly established Japanese Studies Department there.

From the offered references abiding by the requirements outlined in article 117, subparagraph 1 of *RCPASDAPSU* on the minimum national requirements, citation reference with complete bibliographical description of cited and citing publications, and references of the original academic contributions, it is evident that the academic work and publications of the applicant are sufficient and completely cover the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” to be granted the academic position “professor”.

The primary monograph “Conscious education: Examples from Bulgarian Japanese studies” (Sofia: Zvezdi, 2020, 156 p) might seem, at first glance, to deal with issues closer related to professional field 1.3. *Pedagogy of Teaching in....* In actuality, however, upon further perusal of the work, the well-versed reader will discover the complex interdisciplinary approach of the author. An approach which has allowed her, on the one hand, to display her erudition, philological and ethnocultural, philosophic and pedagogic competence and expertise, and, on the other hand, to provide ample grounds to conclude that the issues discussed are pertinent to the competition requirements. Furthermore, Zen Buddhism posits that mastery could be achieved only after inner transformation, but according to Robert Greene, mastery is achieved by those who, after reaching the limits of their own craft, find themselves not satisfied with those same limits and seek to expand their knowledge in areas related, or further removed from it, which allows them to draw new connections between ideas.

The PhD thesis, monograph, and listed publications of assoc. prof. Gergana Petkova are original academic works which were not found to be plagiarised. She has participated and published in prestigious national and international forums. Her academic, educational, translation and publication work paint her as a serious scholar and researcher, talented translator, qualified educator and expert in the Japanese language, literature, and culture. She has been part of numerous research projects and has headed six – three of which have been international and concerned with Japanese language, literature, and culture.

The offered references, as per the minimum national requirements outlined in article 2B of ADASRB, receive the following scores: PhD

thesis (*Index A* – 50 points), monograph (*Index V* – 100 points), publications (*Index G* – 237.5 points, above the required minimum of 200), citations, both nationally and internationally, (*Index D* – 145 points, also above the required minimum of 100), and finally, *Index E* – 220 points, more than twice the required minimum of 100. The total of 752.5 attested points is above and beyond the required 550 points.

The substantial list of publications along with the applied references, the wide-ranging linguistic competence (completely fluent in Japanese, English, Russian and knowledge in German), impressive academic work and contributions, participation in prestigious academic forums, artistic and education work of assoc. prof. Gergana Petkova unequivocally attest that she fully complies with the legal requirements and possesses the necessary training, competencies, knowledge and academic growth to be granted the academic position “professor”.

Based on the afore-stated, my evaluation of the results achieved in academics and education, contributions and originality of her works is decidedly positive. I vote strongly **IN FAVOUR** and recommend that the honourable Academic Jury propose to the Faculty Council of FCMP at SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” that assoc. prof. Gergana Rumenova Petkova is made *professor of Japanese literature and culture* in higher education area 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology.

08.09.2020

assoc. prof. Vladimir Vladov, PhD