

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Russana Beyleri (Ph.D), Department of General Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics, Faculty of Slavic Studies, University of Sofia St.

Kliment Ohridski, jury member

Subject to review: Competition for the open position of Associated Professor in the scientific field 2.1. Philology (Literature of the People of Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia – Modern Greek Literature). The competition was announced for the needs of the Faculty of Slavic Studies, University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski and was published in the State Gazette 21/13.03.2020. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Fotiny Yanis Christachoudy-Konstantinidou.

1. Compliance with the minimal requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the terms and procedure for the acquisition of scholarly degrees academic position in the University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski, NEW, Chapter IV.

Fotiny Yanis Christachoudy-Konstantinidou applies for the position with the following scientific production: published monograph based on the thesis defended for the educational and scholarly degree “Doctor” in Modern Greek Literature and the requisite number of articles according to the numeric scientific indicators defined by the Law; a brand new monograph in Modern Greek Literature and sufficient number of citations. It deserves mentioning that the total number of articles and citations of the candidate, known to me, exceeds the mandatory score.

2. Candidate’s info and personal impressions related to the present competition.

Dr. Fotiny Yanis Christachoudy-Konstantinidou graduated from the five year master’s profile in Balkan Studies at the Faculty of Slavic Studies in 2001 with excellent academic results. She acquired two additional diplomas in International Relations and English Philology. During her studies and immediately after graduation she participated in professional trainings abroad with respect to her broader interests. I have known the candidate since 1997 as her teacher of Albanian Language and Literature during the whole course of studies. As such I witnessed very good proficiency in Albanian Language above the level of perfect understanding and use for scholarly purposes. She participated in scholarly conferences with papers on the Albanian Illuminist activity, laterally connected to the tripartite Greek-Albanian-Bulgarian literary contacts. Despite the fact that

the abovementioned field remained beyond her further scholarly activity, she wrote a couple of materials that earned sufficient appreciation and got at least three citations, alongside with a reference in a documentary. Fotiny Christakoudy manifests respect and appreciation to members of other Balkan migrant groups in Bulgaria like the illuminist Josif Bageri and the post-romantic writer Thoma Kacori.

Since 2003 Fotiny Christachoudy commenced her regular doctoral studies at the Institute of Balkan Studies, BAS, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Habil. Lilia Kirova at the “Balkan Cultural History” Department. The doctoral theses was defended in due time in 2007. In the meantime she won a competition for an assistant’s position at the Department of General, Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics as teacher of Modern Greek Language and Literature for the needs of the Balkan Studies Department. Her career development through the scholarly degrees, in 2008 “senior assistant” and in 2009 “chief assistant”, was steady, methodical and consistent in the professional area of the present competition. Fotiny Christachoudy firmly remained focused in the Modern Greek Literature notwithstanding her duties as teacher of practical language as mandatory tuition hours in the syllabus. She also conducts the translation elective courses during the students’ last year. In 1999-2000 we worked together in the Foreign Service of the Bulgarian National Radio, where she went through a tough and demanding translation and interpreting school to and from Modern Greek over a vast majority of topics and under the constant time, urgency and quality pressure for delivery and broadcasting. Her scholarly specialization on the other hand became the poetry translation from Greek into Bulgarian.

Fotiny Christachoudy supervises master’s theses in Modern Greek Literature and in Comparative Balkan Literary Science where she attests proficiency in the other languages of the Balkan Language Union and immense general knowledge. Over the past year we have worked together in the Editorial Board of the electronic scientific journal in comparative literature “Colloquia comparativa literarum” under the direction of our mentor in the field Prof. Dr. Habil R.L. Stantcheva, as well as in the edition of scholarly compilations at the Department, where the candidate demonstrates responsibility, serious and collegial attitude and competence.

3. The habilitation monograph

Fotiny Christachoudy's monograph „Problems of the Greek Literary Development 1880-1930 (Etudes on the Modern Greek Poetry)“ is a logical stage of her cumulative scholarly production. The author displays profound insight in Greek Poetry and the book subject to review analyses not only the period mentioned in the title, but also its interrelation with the folklore and the musical and song traditions but also topical authors and phenomena of the present period related to comparative literature, physical and language border transitions and transpositions. The book pays attention to symbolic names in the Modern Greek poetry, to tradition-novelty opposition; to the standard criticism of external and foreign influence in literature; to the collision of ideas between the generations similar to the other Balkan and Slavic neighbors. A strong merit of the monograph is its readability, the fascinating intellectual authenticity, as well as its informative character. The specialists will discover the detailed insights of the expert while the common readers will enjoy the connoisseur and enrich their general knowledge.

I have read all the candidate's publications in Bulgarian. The latest articles manifest stronger than ever proficiency in the theoretical concepts of mythology, cultural transfer and current literary trends and more than once some information or paragraphs inspired my own research process related to the subject.

Conclusion:

After the serious review of the materials presented by Fotiny Christachoudy for the open competition I strongly suggest to the jury to award her the Associated Professor position in the professional field 2.1. 2.1. Philology (Literature of the People of Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia – Modern Greek Literature) at the Faculty of Slavic Studies, University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski.

Sofia, August 31th, 2020

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. R. Beyleri)