

ASSESSMENT

of

application for the academic position of Associate Professor,
Professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences
(Theory and history of culture. Culture of research work and communication in
the social sciences and humanities), in contest announced by Sofia University
and promulgated in the State Gazette, no. 48 of 28.06.2022
by: Prof. Dr. Ivan Vasilev Christov - SU, Faculty of Theology (Religion and
Theology/Humanities), in his capacity as a member of the scientific jury
according to Order No. RD 38-457/26.07.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University

For the academic position of half-time Associate Professor at the Faculty of
Philosophy has applied one candidate – Martin Nikolaev Osikovsky.

I. General description of the presented materials

1. Application data

The documents submitted by the candidate correspond to the requirements of the
ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for
acquiring scientific degrees and taking academic positions at Sofia University
“St. Kliment Ohridski” (PURPNSZADSU). According to the criteria of Article
26 of ZRASRB, he collects 635 points, which fully covers the minimal national
requirements.

To participate in the contest, the candidate Martin Nikolaev Osikovsky
submitted a list of a total of 13 titles, including one monograph, 2 books, 10
articles in Bulgarian and international journals. All publications are on the subject
of the contest. From the provided reference, it can be seen that three of the
candidate's articles are included in Web of Science and one in Scopus. The
absence of an impact factor is due to the weaker interest of the world's greatest
databases in humanitarian studies (which is why the achievements of scholars in

this field are not adequately appreciated) and should be left without attention. The candidate also has 3 citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes and another 3 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. The application documentation has been prepared in great detail and in good faith.

2. Applicant data

The contest documents certify that Martin Osikovsky's academic development began at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (SU) and continued in prestigious European universities. In 2002, he obtained a BA in Philosophy from SU, and in 2003 a MA in Medieval Studies at the Central European University in Budapest. In 2007, the candidate supplemented his qualification with a DAAD program specialization in the History Seminar at the University of Heidelberg, and in 2008 he specialized in Late Medieval History of Political Thought and Medieval Latin at the University of Oxford. The candidate obtained his doctorate in 2009 with the dissertation “The Church and the Council in the Writings of Marsilio of Padua and William of Ockham. Ecclesiological Contributions of Late Medieval Political Philosophy and Journalism” in the Department of “History and Theory of Culture”, to which is the current contest.

The candidate also has solid teaching experience. He has been a lecturer at the University of National and World Economy, Department of Media and Public Communications for 11 years (2010-2018 as an Assistant, 2018-2021 as an Associate Professor). Since 2021, Martin Osikovsky is an Associate Professor at the New Bulgarian University, Department of History. He was also a part-time lecturer at SU, Faculty of Philosophy and visiting lecturer at the Department of History at the University of Helsinki and also at the University of Lower Silesia (Wrocław, Poland). Martin Osikowski is a certified lecturer in the International Baccalaureate Program (www.ibo.org) and has experience as an English teacher.

A good certification of the candidate's professional competence is his participation in a research project at CAS (Challenges Facing the Future of Social

Sciences and Humanities in Europe, 2020) and in the European university alliance *ENGAGE.EU European University* (2019-2021).

A good impression is made by the commitment of Martin Osikovsky's academic growth, who invariably follows one subject and constantly upgrades his knowledge and skills.

The candidate has an excellent command of English, German, Latin and Russian, very good Italian and French, and also working command of ancient Greek and Chinese.

3. Description of submitted pieces of research

For participation in the contest, the candidate has submitted a habilitation thesis *The Priest and the Seal. Topoi of Faith in Foreign News, 2011-2019*, Veliko Tarnovo: Faber, 20222, as well as 2 books and 10 articles on similar topics.

The habilitation thesis has gone through two editions and has Kalin Yanakiev as its scientific editor. The work has undoubted scientific merits, which make it fully suitable for participation in the current contest. It has a total volume of 214 printed pages and consists of a preface, an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. The scholarly apparatus includes 175 footnotes. The author has carried out a comprehensive and in-depth study of religious news in European media sources for the period 2011-2019 and has highlighted the *topoi* and *news-nests* in them.

Undoubtedly, in terms of its subject matter and achieved results, the habilitation thesis has a high value and is of interest not only to specialists, but also to the wider public.

II. Research contributions

There are three points of contribution in the monograph. First, a methodology is developed to identify *topoi* and *nests* in religious news. Second, for the first time this methodology has been applied to European media material. Third, the

experience of previous thematic taxonomies of religious news carried out in the USA was transferred to European soil.

The candidate also has contributions to the study of the genesis of the early modern idea of a free press, to the culture of research work in the social sciences and humanities, to the history of pre-modern political thought. His translations and compilations are also noteworthy.

In my opinion, the contributions in the reference attached by the candidate are formulated correctly and correspond to what he has achieved.

All this testifies to the full compliance of the candidate with the legal requirements for occupying the position “Associate Professor”. I give my positive assessment to his application.

III. Conclusion:

Based on the compliance of the candidate's habilitation thesis, as well as his teaching and project-research activity with the academic and legal requirements, I strongly recommend the members of the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority for the selection in the Faculty of Philosophy at SU Martin Nikolaev Osikovsky to be given the academic position “Associate Professor” in the Department of “History and Theory of Culture”.

2.11.2022

Prof. Dr. Ivan Christov

Sofia

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Faculty of Theology/