

STATEMENT

on the competition for Associate Professor in 2.3. Philosophy (History of Philosophy – New Philosophy XIX century) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
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The competition for Associate Professor in 2.3. Philosophy (History of Philosophy – New Philosophy XIX century) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The only candidate for this competition is Assoc. Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov Bozhkov from the Department of History of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". He is also a member of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sofia.

The candidate meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. He obtained his PhD degree in 2012 after successful defence of his dissertation on "History and Emancipation (Karl Marx, Walter Benjamin, Jacques Rancière)" at the Sofia University. He graduated from the University of "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a Ph. On the basis of this dissertation the monograph "History and Emancipation. Clio in the Passages of Modernity", Sofia. ISBN: 978-954-07- 5405-5. Dimitar Bozhkov has held the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor at SU since 2013. The candidate's academic activity meets the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activity for the academic position of Associate Professor.

The candidate has submitted for participation in the competition the monograph "Marxism in Messianism", Sofia. ISBN: 978-954-07-5530-4 In addition to this, 1 chapter in a collective monograph, 5 studies in scientific journals and collections and 4 articles in scientific journals and collections have been submitted.

The monograph "Marxism in Messianism", which is presented as a habilitation thesis, is an original and somewhat unusual for the Bulgarian historical-philosophical literature study of the relationship between Marxism and the tradition of modern messianism in philosophy. This tradition is represented by figures such as Franz Rosenzweig, Walter Benjamin, Ernst Bloch, Gershom Scholem, Martin Buber and Jakob Taubes. It is Taubes who receives particular attention. The author has given due attention both to the influences of philosophical messianism on some versions of twentieth-century Marxist philosophy and, conversely, to the influence of Marxism on the thinking of some of the authors mentioned. Particularly valuable

is the consideration of the relationship between Marxism and contemporary Catholic messianism in Latin America.

Marxism and philosophical messianism meet on the terrain of the philosophy of history. The author understands well and clarifies precisely the features of this relatively new philosophical discipline that emerged after the 18th century, when the erosion of Christian-religious thinking about history began. The most widespread view of the origins of the philosophy of history is that formulated by Carl Leavitt after World War II. According to this understanding, the philosophy of history is a secularized eschatology. Taking into account other conceptions of the origin and character of the philosophy of history, Dimitar Bozhkov's study offers further diverse and differentiated arguments in favor of this thesis.

Central to the encounter between Marxism and messianism, as Bozhkov argues, is the relation between present and past. Focused on the idea of social change, both Marxism and messianism look to the past for possibilities for revolutionary action. The big question, however, remains the question of the future, that is, the ultimate goal of revolution. For classical Marxism, this ultimate goal is communism, and for the various varieties of Christian religious messianism, it is the coming of the final event of the Last Judgment, which pronounces the final sentence on the world. It would be intriguing to ask whether and with what cogency these two eschatological visions can be sustained in our time.

Of the other publications submitted by the author for his participation in the contest, I would single out the two works on Abby Wartburg, *Nymph the Wanderer and Abby Wartburg with the Pueblo Indians. Oraibi and Florence* – as well as the judge's *"The Detective Novel or On the Trail of the Subtle: Krakauer and Boltanski."* To this group of publications, with some qualification, may be added the article *"History and Art: Modes of Visibility"*. In it, using and clarifying the concept of *"modes of visibility"* introduced by Jacques Rancière, the author reflects on the essential relationship between historical knowledge and fiction. In these publications, the author demonstrates a rich knowledge of aesthetics and art theory, a high philosophical culture and analytical ability, excellent aesthetic taste and the ability to discover unusual questions and make unexpected connections between authors and works.

For the last few years I have been involved as a lecturer in the international Master's programme *"Media, Culture, Communication"*. Dimitar Bozhkov also had a lecture course there. From conversations with students in the program, I got the impression that he is able to communicate very well with them and enjoys their attention and respect. From his appearances at scientific conferences as well as from the article *"On Philosophy and its History"* submitted for the competition, I conclude that he has a very serious and conscious

attitude towards academic teaching and has managed to establish himself as a good university lecturer.

From the list of Dimitar Bozhkov's participations in scientific conferences and his memberships in scientific and professional organizations, it is evident that he is well integrated into the Bulgarian philosophical community and is ready to take responsibility for common endeavors.

I have known Dimitar Bozhkov personally since his student years, when, albeit briefly, I was his teacher. I have very positive impressions of his work and his personality. I perceive him as an intelligent, responsive and attentive person with independent thinking and great creative potential.

Conclusion. Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov Bozhkov gives solid grounds to be elected as Associate Professor in 2.3. Philosophy (History of Philosophy – New Philosophy of the XIX Century) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". As a member of the Scientific Jury I will vote FOR his election with full conviction.

Signature:

Sofia, 14 November 2022