

**TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY**
conducting a Competition for awarding the Academic Position
“Professor” for the needs of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia
University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

REVIEW

Regarding the Scientific Production and the Teaching Activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Participant in a Competition for awarding the Academic Position “Professor” in Professional Field 3.3. Political Science (Political Ideas), announced in Official Journal No. 24/17.03.2023 г.

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The review has been drafted in accordance with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rules for the Implementation of the DASRBA, and Order of the Rector of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski” № Pd 38-257/16.05.2023. The review was assigned by a Decision of the members of the scientific jury for conducting the procedure - Protocol No. 1/02.06.2023.

I declare that I am not a person related to the candidate participating in the Competition for awarding the Academic Position “Professor” within the meaning of § 1 (5) of the Supplementary Provisions of the DASRBA and that I have no private interest which could affect the impartial and objective performance of my work as a member of the jury in this competition.

I. General assessment of the competition materials

Only candidate submitted an application for participation in the announced competition - Associate Professor Dr. Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, from the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The documents and materials submitted in electronic form comply with the procedural rules for holding competitions for filling academic positions at SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” and are the basis for this review.

II. Personal characteristic of the candidate - biographical data and professional development

The candidate Svetoslav Malinov was born in 1968. He received his secondary education at the Geo Milev English Language High School in 1986, Burgas, where he graduated with honors, and his higher education - a master's degree in “Political Science”, at the SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Philosophy, also with excellent results. During his studies at SU and immediately after, he trained and participated in various specializations at prestigious foreign universities, and in 1996 he received a master's degree in political philosophy at a Chevening Scholar at the Department of Politics at the University of York, Great Britain. In the period 1995-1998, he was a doctoral student at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Philosophy, SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” and in 1999 he defended a candidate's thesis on the

topic: “A Critique of Political Rationalism. A Study on the Political Thought of Edmund Burke”.

A defining feature of the overall education of Sv. Malinov is that it is carried out with a marked consistency and focus in the field of political knowledge and specifically - in the field of political ideas. This is confirmed by both the topics of his specializations and, and this is the main thing, the topics of his master's theses and doctoral dissertation.

The professional career of the candidate is mainly related to the SU “St. Kl. Ohridski”: he held the academic positions of assistant (1998) and associate professor (2009) in the history of political ideas in the department of “Political Science”, and since 1999 he has been a “doctor” in political science. In 1997 he was a research assistant (Democracy Fellow) at the Graduate Faculty of the New School University in New York-USA, in the period 2001-2010 he was a member of the Expert Team of the Bulgarian School of Politics “Dimitar Panitsa”, a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal “Political Studies” and the Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Razum” (a theoretical journal for politics and culture), a member of the Board of the Political Academy for Central and South-Eastern Europe, and from 1999 until now he is also a member of the Bulgarian Association of Political Sciences.

In the process of the professional realization of Sv. Malinov, he also holds a number of administrative positions - Secretary of the Bulgarian Association for Political Sciences and since 2019 he is the Head of the Department of “Political Science” at SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

The candidate's professional activity is distinguished by two more important directions: his participation as a member and leader of several international and national scientific projects of significant practical value and his translation work - his translations of some, untranslated into Bulgarian, fundamental works by authors such as Locke, Hume, Burke, who shaped the path of political thought in recent centuries.

It should be especially noted that Associate Professor Malinov has an impressive presence in the political life of Bulgaria and Europe. He is a founder and member of the leadership of the political party Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (2004-2017), a Member of Parliament in the 40th National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (2005-2009), a Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (2005-2009), a Member of the European Parliament (2011-2019), and in relevant periods he was part of a number of committees and held leadership positions in the institutions in which he was a member, during which he showed political consistency and clearly expressed his political position, which is also evidenced by the presentation of this side of his activity in the autobiography for participation in the competition: work in “Democratic” organizations and institutions.

III. General characteristics and evaluation of the works of the participant in the competition.

The presented comprehensive list of the candidate's scientific publications shows that his searches are mainly concentrated in the field of the history of political ideas, and in addition they include other areas of political knowledge: nature and role of politics/political in society, nature, manifestations and significance of the different political systems, the politics-religion

relationship, including theoretical-methodological developments examining problems of improving the quality of university education in the fields of political science and humanities.

3.1

For participation in the competition, the only candidate, Associate Professor Dr. Svetoslav Malinov, submitted a “List of Selected Publications”, which includes a monograph - habilitation thesis – “Dangerous Minds. Essays on the Political Radicalism of the XIX Century”, Sofia, St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, ISBN 978-954-07-5401-7, 2022, 254 pages, one published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree “doctor” - “Critique of Political Rationalism. A Study on the Political Thought of Edmund Burke”, Sofia, Gutenberg Press, ISBN 954-9943-56-9, 2004, 240 pages, two university textbooks, two studies, and 15 articles, reports, and individual chapters published in non-refereed journals with peer reviewed or published in edited collective volumes. These scientific papers are on issues that fully correspond to the thematic direction of the competition: Political Sciences–Political Ideas. The main part of them deals with topics and problems from the history of political ideas. The habilitation monograph of the candidate has the same problem.

The presented publications, some of which have been published in English and other foreign languages by authoritative publishing houses or are from participation in significant scientific forums, are present in the scientific life, which is referred to in the attached reference to the candidate's citations by other authors, are not part of the scientific production for obtaining the scientific degree “doctor” and for holding the academic position “associate professor” and meet the requirements for holding the academic position “professor”, which is why they can be accepted for review.

3.2

Among the publications submitted for review on issues directly related to the history of political ideas are the two studies, as well as articles No. 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14. In the general view of these texts, the following can be indicated defining feature: despite the apparent diversity, Sv. Malinov concentrates his attention on the formation and development of liberal-democratic political ideas and projects and the criticism of their theoretical and ideological “alternatives”, which naturally leads him to the publication of both his monographs. I believe that the monograph **“Dangerous Minds. Essays on the Political Radicalism of the XIX Century”**, **is the most essential and contributing, therefore, I will focus my attention on it.**

3.2.1

In terms of methodology, the research was realized through the application of an, as the author writes, non-traditional research approach, which he called “respectful exegesis”. The essence of this approach, according to Malinov, consists in the rejection of imputations in academic circles as a “scientific” approach, the refutation of key theses, the demonstration of contradictions, the disclosure of weaknesses, and in carrying out in close connection with the historical context an unintentional analysis and “tidy” reproduction of the authentic ideas of the considered works.

A second methodological point in the monograph is the development and application of a common presentation model: the individual chapters have a similar structure, which: a) includes a historical-contextual examination of the ideas of each of the authors through short

biographies with a political emphasis; b) begins by outlining the theoretical foundation of the leading ideas, then moves to the more concrete level of the political.

3.2.2

Based on the outlined methodological premises, the author Sv. Malinov successfully wraps up his analysis as **in terms of content**, in my opinion, the following essential aspects of the monograph can be pointed out:

a) the study is focused on the political thought of six European thinkers - Joseph de Maistre (1753-1821), Juan Donoso Cortes (1809-1853), Arthur de Gobineau (1816-1869), Houston Chamberlain (1855-1927), Max Stirner (1806-1856), and Georges Sorel (1847-1922) as, and therein lies his originality, for the first time these thinkers are considered together as representatives of “political radicalism” within a certain historical period called “the long nineteenth century”;

b) the analysis is carried out on the basis of deriving a definition of the concept of “political radicalism”. Here, in my opinion, lies the next contributing point in the reviewed monograph, because, as its author points out, this concept, which is fundamental to the study, was not taken by a particular author, but was independently constructed through the analysis of contemporary interpretations and a conscious return to the ideological context of the nineteenth century. Based on an understanding of the radicalism of Maurice Block and taking into account the evolution of his understanding, Malinov perceives as acceptable the idea that political radicalism is the following of certain ideas in politics without considering the circumstances, the diversity, the complexity of human nature and societies, and then following them to their logical end, narrow-minded, one-sided and straight-laced without regard to the real consequences for real people.

This definition is as much “historical” as it is “current” - it is related to the 19th but also the 21st century - it was derived by a 19th-century thinker, focused on 19th-century thinkers, and at the same time it is close to the modern understanding that radicalism can be both left and right, whereby, as shown by Sv. Malinov, already at the beginning of the 21st century, although he maintained his critical attitude towards the status quo, radicalism was above all fragmented, without a comprehensive vision of society, drawing ideas from practically everywhere - religion, economics, science, philosophy;

c) the study is not just a “retelling”, as often happens in “scientific-historical” literature, of the ideas of the analyzed works, but based on the accepted understanding of political radicalism, carries out a “reflection” of the essence in them and presents the author's interpretation of their grounds and meaning, and thus reveals both what unites them and what opposes them, including and in comparison with the “common” historical-intellectual and political-spiritual situation. Thus, the analysis is as much “contextual” as “processual”, because it combines both the disclosure of the “authentic” ideas of the authors under consideration and the assessment of Sv. Malinov for them, carried out through the prism of their influence in “their” time, but also of their influence in subsequent periods, including from the point of view of their importance in the first quarter of the XXI century.

d) as a summary of what was said about the reviewed monograph “Dangerous Minds. Essays on the Political Radicalism of the XIX Century”, I will note that the analysis carried out in it shows the validity of the thesis of its author that the political-theoretical heritage of the 19th century is too complex and multifaceted to be understood only through its “classics” and

that it is the work of the radical thinkers that shows them reaching “to the very end of political thinking, to which the poor fantasy of the “traditional classics” never dared to approach”.

3.3

After the reviewed monograph, I will briefly focus on the following works with which Associate Professor Dr. Svetoslav Malinov participated in the competition:

3.3.1

I will begin with the monograph “Critique of Political Rationalism. A Study on the Political Thought of Edmund Burke”. It is presented in the section “Published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” or for the award of the scientific degree “Doctor of Science””. In it, the author sets himself the ambitious goal of offering a comprehensive interpretation of the political thought of Edmund Burke (1729-1797). Realizing that such an intention is difficult to achieve due to the existing divergent interpretations of Burke's work, as well as the tension between his roles as politician and thinker, the book's nine chapters apply an approach close to and prior to approach in “Dangerous Minds...” (which, by the way, is an indicator of the formation of a lasting research approach), expressed in an analysis of the ideological context of Burke's political thought, Svetoslav Malinov formulates arguments to prove the thesis of his belonging to the tradition of the Christian understanding of natural law. In developing the analysis in support of this thesis, special interest, in my opinion, deserves the chapters in which Malinov sets out Burke's main “positive” political ideas about the nature and role of the state, the relationship between politics and religion, between Church and state, the role of property, the qualities of the rulers and prudence as the main political virtue, for the classical defense of the best state system starting from Cicero as a balance between monarchical, aristocratic and democratic elements of government, as well as the appearance of Burke as a critic of the ideas and practice of the radical actors of the French Revolution and Malinov's explanation of the divergence between this critique and the defense of the American Revolution.

As a conclusion, it can be stated that this monograph presents Sv. Malinov as a researcher with permanent interests related to the formation and development of conservative political thought, which is confirmed by his publications in an almost 20-year period.

3.3.2

In addition to the two monographs, Associate Professor Malinov in the sections “Articles /studies published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes” presented several of his articles and studies, among which, considering the profile of the competition, and their importance in the Bulgarian political literature in general, special attention, in my opinion, deserves the “prefaces” to the translations of John Locke, “Two Treatises on Government”, John Stuart Mill, “On the Subjection of Women”, Francis Bacon, “New Atlantis”.

Despite the specificity of each of the texts, what can be indicated as the basis for considering them in one “rubric” is: first, the logic of the presentation of each of the works through the prism of already outlined Sv. Malinov's reflexive-contextual approach - for “Two Treatises...” it manifests itself in examining Locke's ideas in accordance with the existing historical-political context in the second half of the 17th century, for “On the Subjection of Women” - in delineating the contrast between Britain's claims to a leading world power and the degrading position of women in legal and political terms in the first half and middle of the 19th

century, for “New Atlantis” - in presenting the significance of Bacon's attempt to consider in an accessible form the benefits of applying of the methods of modern science at the dawn of the New Age; second - in that in all three texts Malinov presents the authors and their ideas through the prism of the formation in accordance with the historical context, of the new, liberal, democratic (and progressive), knowledge about politics, about its essence and the role it has in/for history of society.

3.4

I will finish the review of Ass. Prof. Malinov's scientific output with two of his university textbooks included in the section “Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network”. In my opinion, the fact that the competition is for obtaining an academic position brings to the fore exactly this side of the candidate's activity. Both books occupy an important place in the education not only of political science students, but also in the entire field of socio-political and philosophical knowledge and will be used in all Bulgarian universities.

The first of these: “Two Treatises of Government” by John Locke. A Short Introduction” Sofia, “St. Kliment Ohridski” UP, 2022, presents one the fundamental works in the history of political thought - “Two Treatises on Government” (1690) by John Locke. The publication contains a brief biography of Locke and an introduction to the historical-political context in the second half of the 17th century in Great Britain. An analysis was made of the entire text including the First Treatise as, together with this, Sv. Malinov pays special attention to some basic concepts, which make up the meaning of the Second Treatise, as well as of liberal political thought after Locke.

The second - “The Spirit of Laws” by Charles-Louis de Montesquieu. A Short Introduction”, Sofia, “St. Kliment Ohridski” UP, 2023, not only presents for the first time in Bulgarian the entire content of “The Spirit of Laws”, consisting of 35 books containing 605 chapters, but also contains a short biography of Montesquieu and an analysis of the entire text of his work including the often neglected last five books devoted to Roman and feudal law.

IV. Identification and evaluation of scientific contributions

4.1.

Associate Professor Dr. Svetoslav Hristov Malinov presented a Declaration and Reference, from which it is evident that the scientific works, citations and other evidence on the individual scientometric indicators for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of DASRBA, with which he participated in the competition for the academic position of “professor” in the professional field of Political Science - Political Ideas, fulfill these requirements and were not used for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, for the acquisition of the scientific degree “Doctor of Sciences” and for occupying the academic position “associate professor” in the same professional direction, as well as for occupying an academic position in another professional direction.

4.2.

I believe that in the scientific contributions formulated by the candidate, the novelty and applicability of the achieved scientific results are correctly justified. They can, in my opinion, be summarized and presented as follows:

1) The application by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sv. Malinov in the main publications presented for review, on a research approach uncharacteristic of our historical-political science literature,

emphasizing the historical context and the way of thinking about politics, which gives him the opportunity to propose new ideas for classification and grouping in the history of political science.

2) Directing, both in the monographs and in some of the articles submitted for participation in the competition, to the study of the work of few or relatively unknown authors in our country, which, based on the use of the already mentioned approach, is interpreted in an original way and it is placed in a new, unrepresented in literature, place in the history of political ideas.

3) Taking independent positions when considering significant and current theoretical and practical problems, including offering a new conceptual apparatus for their justification and protection.

I will add two more points to the assessment of contributions:

First, the fact that the “novelty” of Assoc. Prof. Malinov's scientific output has found confirmation in the political science literature. As the attached reference shows, his works are known to the scientific community and have been cited repeatedly by various authors both in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.

Second, it has already been mentioned in the review, Malinov's translation work deserves high praise, as well as the preparation and publication of university textbooks, which further “condense” his academic “profile”.

V. Critical Notes and Recommendations

What has been said so far in the review shows that my positive attitude towards the presented materials and the activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetoslav Malinov definitely dominates my overall assessment of them, but as is well known, there is no research or activity that does not raise critical considerations. One part of them is substantive, the other is formal. Here I will not dwell on the meaningful, since it should be in some aspects of the positions of Sv. Malinov (mainly in the monograph “Dangerous Minds...”) to enter into a theoretical discussion that hardly has a place in a review like this one. Within the framework of the formal ones, I will note one that is important for evaluating the readiness of the candidate for the academic position: as can be seen from the attached Reference, Assoc. Prof. Malinov has no doctoral candidates.

In this regard, I have the following recommendation: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sv. Malinov in his future work as a university lecturer to direct his efforts to the guidance and successful defense of his doctoral students.

VI. Personal impressions

My impressions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetoslav Malinov are mainly “indirect” - from his public appearances, but also obtained in the process of my work as Head of a group for accreditation of PP 3.3 Political Sciences at SU “St. Kl. Ohridski”, when Assoc. Prof. Malinov, in his capacity as the Head of the “Political Science” Department, showed high professionalism, a sense of responsibility, responsiveness and efficiency, which significantly contributed to the successful work of the group.

VII. Conclusion

Bearing in mind what was said in the review about the activity of Associate Professor Dr. Svetoslav Malinov, that he participated in the competition with scientific publications with proven original scientific and methodological contributions, I believe that he meets the requirements for holding the academic position of “professor” according to the DASRBA and the RIDASRBA. On the basis of these conclusions, as a member of the scientific jury for the current competition, I will vote and I propose to the respected scientific jury to vote unanimously for the awarding of the academic position “Professor” in professional field 3.3. Political Sciences (Political Ideas) to Associate Professor Dr. Svetoslav Hristov Malinov.

VIII. Declaration.

I, the undersigned Prof. Dr. Boris Manov, declare that I meet the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position “Professor”.

08.08.2023
Blagoevgrad

Signature: _____
Prof. Dr. Boris Manov