

Opinion

by Associate Professor Moris Fadel,

New Bulgarian University

The habilitation thesis of Dr. Galina Avramova, a candidate in the competition for associate professor in the professional field 2.1 Philology (North American Literature—English), entitled "Images of War: Canadian and American Novels about the Second World War," published as a book in 2023, is related to a topic that has unfortunately become actual: the war.

A positive feature of the monographic research is that it manages to "bring together" literature and the world instead of rushing to separate them; not to "dissociate" "fiction" and reality, as traditional literary analysis teaches us, but to see them as interacting in making sense of the tragic phenomenon of war. Speaking of literary works, Dr. Avramova also discusses real human situations. This engagement between literature and the world is suggested by the theme of war, where people's motivation to participate in the "carnage" is often driven by "artistic" examples of sacrifice and fearlessness in the face of death.

This monographic study examines five novels of American and Canadian literature dealing with World War II: Norman Mailer's "The Naked and the Dead", Joseph Heller's "Paraphrase on Paradise Lost", Kurt Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse Five", William Wharton's "A Midnight Clear", and Michael Ondaatje's "The English Patient". I highly appreciate its "comparative approach": the novels are not considered separately, in different parts, but are compared over the course of the whole text.

The monographic study examines particular aspects of the complex phenomenon of modern war and its impact on human beings: war and human body, war and self-knowledge, war and morality,

war and identity, madness, and love. The author constructs the study in such a way that even when the five analyzed works come into contrast, they are complementary. This is the result both of her skill in interpreting literary texts and perhaps of the phenomenon of war itself, which changes the human existence completely.

I strongly recommend the esteemed scientific jury nominate Dr. Galina Avramova for "Associate Professor" in the professional field of 2.1 Philology (North American Literature in English).

13. 03. 2024

Moris Fadel