

Opinion

by Prof. Ivan Elenkov, D.Sc.,

member of a jury according to an order by the Rector of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia regarding a competition for the academic title “Associate Professor” in the area 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Studies (Theory and History of Culture. Social and Cultural History of Bulgaria. New and Modern Times).

There is a single applicant in the competition: Chief Assistant Dr. Galina Nikolaevna Praskova (*Goncharova*)

Short Biography

Chief Assistant Dr. Galina Goncharova was born on 12th of June 1974. Her academic biography could be traced in ascending order with a completed master's degree in "Cultural Studies" of the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1998. In 2011 she successfully defended her dissertation, with which she obtained a scientific and educational degree "Doctor". She started working in the same department and faculty of Sofia University. Since 2001 onwards, she has been developing through the academic positions of "part-time assistant", "assistant", "senior assistant" and "chief assistant".

General description of the submitted materials for the competition and evaluation of the publication activities of the applicant

The materials presented by the single applicant Ch. Assistant Dr. Galina Nikolaevna Praskova (*with a scientific pseudonym Goncharova*) completely fulfil the requirements of the competition and present specific evidence according to the criteria for the competition. The applicant's entire work is presented through lists of publications and citations, through the text of the submitted contributions and autobiography. The given documentation is neat and detailed, including digital copies of the publications required for the participation in this competition, as well as summaries in Bulgarian and English.

There are 2 monographs, 5 compilations of solid academic publications, 3 chapters from books in English, 33 articles in authoritative scientific journals, collections and numerous publications accompanying her research and teaching career (textbooks, reviews, conference reviews, interviews). Her texts from her participation in national and international scientific and educational projects should be noted. They were from her appearances at academic

forums nationally and abroad - all materials highlight the indisputable achievements of a remarkable literary work.

The scientific works of Galina Goncharova can be divided in accordance with the criteria for minimum national requirements under Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria:

Group of indicators "A" - 50 points;

Group of indicators "B" - 100 points;

Group of indicators "D" - 345 points;

Group of indicators "D" - 130 points;

Group of indicators "E" - 240 points.

Taken together, all these figures definitely exceed the minimum national requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff and unequivocally indicate her candidacy for an associate professor in this field as a valuable, talented and productive research staff.

Her scientific works spread over several fields of modern humanities - research in the field of social history, cultural history, oral history and biographical research. Her achievements have a strong impact and a definite influence on the professional circles, expressed and shared through repeated references to her creative name.

Teaching activities

Her teaching, seminars and lecture courses are another confirmation of the development and progress of her academic career - over the years Goncharova has developed and conducted various seminars and lecture courses in bachelor and master's programs in "Cultural Studies", as well as outside the specified area. Their curricula are distinguished by design, content and immediate implementation with high scientific merits, methodological endurance and achieved unambiguous teaching results.

Position and contribution on the significance of her creative work

The applicant has a clear awareness of her own scientific contributions from the presented publications. Her latest monograph, "Chronicles of Wealth and Modernization in the Kingdom of Bulgaria. The History of Alexander Tenev", presented as a groundwork for her participation in the competition, is a study without previous analogue in the scientific literature. It is a natural centre of gravity of all works presented in this competition, a work to be accepted as a representative summary of her overall research experience. The study combines reconstructive accuracy, conceptuality and comparative perspective – "interdisciplinarity" is its exact definition.

Based on the vast empirical material, Goncharova convincingly provides argumentation for her original thesis on Bulgarian capitalism as a world with moving borders. A world where her characters undergo social transformations to appear as modern individuals with hybrid statuses and roles, turning collectivist and / or patriarchal values and attitudes into a basis for realization of individual life projects outside the borders of the village, family and traditions. Her book could be described as an account of the achievement of the "Bulgarian dream" of progress, wealth and decency before socialist times.

I have no remarks or critical objections that deserve a place in the opinion. Her research is an undoubted scientific achievement with clear contributions to the understanding and conceptualisation of the human situation in the recent historical period.

By emphasizing the high quality of the scientific work of Galina Goncharova, its empirical diversity, its theoretical, methodological and interpretive merits; by pointing out the visible projections of the creative work she presents in science and publicity; by considering her fruitful academic career, teaching practice and indisputable authority in the collegial community, with full conviction, with these words concluding my review, I call on the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote without hesitation with "YES", choosing her as an "Associate Professor" in professional area 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Studies (Theory and History of Culture. Social and Cultural History of Bulgaria. New and Modern Times).

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Sofia