

ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA
FACULTY OF HISTORY

S T A T E M E N T

under a procedure for an open competition for the academic position of Docent

Scientific area **2. Humanities**

Professional field **2.2. History and Archaeology** (Archaeology – Architectural Archaeology)

declared by the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

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Author of statement:

Prof. Dr Peter Nedelchev Delev, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia (emeritus)

member of the scientific jury by order of the Rector No ПД-38-104 / 09. 02. 2022

A single candidate has applied for the tendered position of Docent – Head Assistant Dr Daniela Stefanova Stoyanova. She graduated *cum laude* in 1997 with a Master's degree in Archaeology at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, then from 1998 to 2001 she was a full-time PhD student in the Department of Archaeology at the Faculty of History of the University of Sofia and in 2002 she defended her doctoral dissertation on “Monumental Architecture in Thrace in the 5th – 3rd centuries BC”. In 2006, after a competition, she was appointed as a head assistant in the same department, where she has been working ever since. Her entire scientific career, from her 1998 master's thesis on semi-cylindrical vault tombs in Thrace to the present day, has been related to architectural archaeology, a field in which she has established herself over the years as a proven and undisputed authority.

Head asst. Dr Daniela Stoyanova fully meets the requirements for candidates for the academic position of Docent according to article 24, clause 1 of the Law for the Advancement of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria, including the minimum national requirements under article 26, clauses. 2 and 3 of the same law and article 1a, clause 1 of the Rules for its application and the relevant attachment (Field 2. Humanitarian sciences. Table 1). She has submitted in this competition a habilitation treatise – the monograph “*Building Ceramics and Architectural Terracotta from Apollonia Pontica (6th century BC - 3rd century BC)*”, published by the St. Kliment Ohridski University Press in 2022, as well as 20 other publications dated after 2005, about half of which (11 out of 20 according to an estimation of their volume in standard pages) meet the requirements for larger studies (*cmȳduu*) according to § 1, point 12 of the concluding clauses of the Law for the Advancement of the Academic

Personnel.

The habilitation treatise submitted by Daniela Stoyanova is the first study on such a scale treating two related categories of archaeological monuments from the Ionian colony of Apollonia Pontica, today Sozopol – the building ceramics, limited in this case mainly to the different categories of roof tiles, and the architectural terracottas – elements of ceramic decoration complementing the ancient tiled roofs, especially in representative public buildings. Accumulated over more than a century, since the first excavations by the French consul Alexandre Degrand on the island of St. Cyriac to the present day, the monuments of these categories from Apollonia have reached the critical mass that has allowed their study and presentation in a monographic work. The research is well outlined and carried out with the professional proficiency inherent in the other publications of the candidate for Docent. The book is a serious scientific work with significant contributions, fully meeting the requirements for a first habilitation.

More than half of the remaining twenty titles submitted to the competition (Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 26) deal with various problems of tomb architecture in ancient Thrace. Some of them are devoted to specific monuments, others to more general problems of Thracian tomb architecture, such as the different types of vaulted and domed structures used or the stone doorways; the exhaustive summary article "Tomb Architecture" in the *Companion to Ancient Thrace* published in 2015 deserves special mention. These publications are of a sustained scholarly character and, taken together, represent a major scientific contribution to the study of this important area of Thracian archaeology, associated with the best-preserved monuments of Thracian architecture.

Seven other titles are thematically related to the subject of the habilitation thesis and deal with various problems of the use of building ceramics in the interior of ancient Thrace and in the coastal Greek cities (Nos. 5, 7, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20); one more (No 11) is transitional between the two categories, devoted to a mound on the peninsula of Kolokita near Sozopol containing both the remains of a stone tomb and interesting finds of building ceramics. The publications in this group are also valuable and contain substantial scientific contributions.

Another noteworthy publication (No 16, co-authored with the excavator Ivan Hristov) is devoted to the architecture of the residential complex in the locality Kozi Gramadi above Starosel.

It should be noted that the publications presented in the competition do not exhaust the scientific activity of the candidate for Docent in the years after the defense of her doctoral dissertation: the full list of Daniela Stoyanova's publications includes almost five times more titles, among which the ones not included in the competition also represent a significant scientific work with many original contributions. I would particularly note her participation as a co-author in several comprehensive scientific publications on important archaeological sites such as the Thracian city at Sveshtari, the royal tomb of

Ginina Mound, and the temple of the Pontic Mother at Dionysopolis.

The scientific production of Dr Stoyanova leaves a very good general impression and in my opinion is more than sufficient to secure her a deserved habilitation as Docent. Her long and successful teaching activity at the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sofia, of which I have very good impressions, should be added to this statement.

Summing up what I have stated above, I can declare with conviction that I am going to vote FOR the election of Head asst. Dr Daniela Stoyanova as Docent.

Sofia, April 7, 2022

Reviewer:


(prof. Peter Delev)