Opinion

by Prof. Dr. Nikolay Aretov Aretov,

Professional field 05.04.02. Bulgarian literature

Institute for Literature, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

on the academic output for participation in a competition for the academic position of

“Associate Professor” in Professional field 2.1. Philology (French Literature, 19th and 20th century),

promulgated in State Gazette no. 24/17. 03. 2023,

by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of classical and modern philology

with single candidate Antoaneta Robova, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor Antoaneta Robova, Ph.D., graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a degree in French language and literature in 2011. As a student, she was an intern at Radio France International (1996–1997). In 2012, she earned her Ph.D. with a thesis on "Mythical figures in the modern French-language novel" (at Sofia University and Université Blaise-Pascal - Clermont-Ferrand 2). Since 2001, he has been an assistant at the University of Sofia, Department of Romance Studies, FCMF, since 2007, she has been a senior assistant; and since 2011, an assistant professor (chief assistant). She led and continues to lead various courses (lectures and seminars) on French literature: "Classicism", "Modernism and Avant-garde", "Literary stylistics", "Analytical readings of literary texts", as well as practical classes in French. She has gone through specializations at French universities five times.

Scholarly research of Antoaneta Robova is focused in the first place on modern French literature, and her attention is more episodically directed to other literatures and cinema. She participated in the competition with the monograph "Creative Figures and the Cycle of Arts in the Prose of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt" (University of St. Kliment Ohridski, 2022, 304 p.) This is an in-depth monograph that aims to explore a significant part of the work of an important contemporary author. The stated emphasis falls on the "intermedial aspects" of his work, but the observations go beyond this task and present the narrative structures in the writer's fiction work in no less depth.

The theoretical toolkit used by Dr. R. Yotova is respectable, as is the precision with which she introduces the terms she uses (in places, I would even say slightly pedantic). The work definitely also has theoretical ambitions related to narratology and the functions of the literary work, considered in psychological terms, as well as the search for "mythic reminiscences" and, last but not least, autotextuality.

The main focus of the work is on the "intermedial aspects" of Schmitt's works. By this, the author understands different things: intertextual connections with other literary works (by Diderot, Molière, Proust...), connections with works from other arts: music (Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Bizet, Chopin), painting, cinema, theater, and body art, and these connections are realized in different ways, carefully cataloged by Robova: thematization, structural assimilation, simple or combined, single or systemic references, local and diffuse intermediality, leitmotifs, and a variety of mirror literary devices.

Valuable are the comparisons between Schmitt's literary and film works, built on a common basis, as well as the observations on the specifics of the different genres of the French writer—short story, short story collection, novel, essay, etc.—and their intertwining. Also important are the observations on the different forms of the author's presence in the text (sometimes in different characters, as in " Les Perroquets de la Place d'Arezzo " and " L’Homme Qui Voyait à Travers Les Visages "), as well as the insertion of non-fictional (philosophical, theological, and art criticism) or quasi-fictional or recreating alternative history (uchronie) fragments in the literary work.

The list of publications in scientific journals and anthologies, proposed by Dr. Antoineta Robova, includes 20 texts. Among them, along with studies on Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, interesting articles on Milan Kundera, Philippe Djian, Amélie Nothomb, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, on the literary metamorphoses of the Don Juan myth, and on films based on literary works.

A. Robova is the editor of the academic journal *Colloquia comparativa litterarum*, of two thematic issues of periodical scientific publications, and co-editor of a scientific collection of articles.

A. Robova participated in 4 scientific projects at SU and in 23 scientific conferences in Bulgaria and abroad, of which she is also a co-organizer.

The List of original scientific contributions, presented by Dr. Antoineta Robova, as well as the List of publications, have been correctly prepared. The citation list of her works deserves respect.

Conclusion

The entire teaching, research, critical, and translation activity of assistant professor (chief assistant) Antoineta Robova, PhD, fully meets the requirements of the law, and this gives me reason to recommend without hesitation that the Academic Council at the University of Sofia award her the title of associate professor at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

July 20, 2023

Conclusion

February 27, 2022

Prof. Dr. Nikolay Aretov Aretov

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