

## **Opinion**

concerning a competition for the academic tenure “Associate Professor” in the scientific field 2. Philology – Literature of the people of Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia (Modern Greek Literature), announced at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and published in Official Gazette, issue 21 of 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 with an only candidate chief assistant

### **Fotini Yanis Hristakudi-Konstantinidu**

Chief assistant PhD Fotini Yanis Hristakudi-Konstantinidu has been a lecturer at the Department of General Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics almost 15 years. Her master’s degree is “Balkan Studies” from the Sofia University (and a minor in “English philology” at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology). After a full-time PhD studies at the Institute of Balkan Studies of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, she won an assistant professor position at the Department. She teaches Modern Greek language (all levels) and Modern Greek literature.

The professional autobiographical reference attached to the competition documents gives an idea of the great number of specializations of the candidate abroad, where she obtained different competencies and enriched her university education.

Fotini Hristakudi entered the competition for associate professor with adequate volume of scientific work – 14 articles and two books, one of them is a revised version of her doctoral thesis. The interest for her publications has been manifested in their quotation in different studies (18, given by the candidate). She is a compiler and editor of several collection works, prepared by the Department, as well as a member of the editorial board of the electronic periodical “Colloquia comparative literarum”. She participates with papers in many national and international scholarly conferences and congresses.

The scientific interests of Fotini Hristakudi are mainly focused at Modern Greek poetry (and not that much at Modern Greek fiction) at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of her publications reflect wider chronological scope and focus on different specific problems both in the literary communication and the cultural life in Greece, on development of architecture and modern art. Her attention is drawn by imposition of Demotic Greek as a literary norm in Greece after 1976, which is an important topic concerning

cultural life in the country, as well as some problems of the Greek song folklore. Through her publications she popularizes the Greek literature in Bulgaria and vice versa, the Bulgarian literature in Greece promulgating essays about Nikola Vaptsarov and Valeri Petrov in Greek literary periodicals.

The habilitation work of Fotini Hristakudi *Problems of Greek literary development 1880–1930. (Etudes on Modern Greek poetry)*. Sofia: Publishing house “Ni Plus”, 2020 – synthesizes the research work of the candidate up to that moment, as well as the generalizations she has made while preparing her course of lectures on Modern Greek literature for Balkan studies students. The habilitation work is organized in six chapters (each of them dedicated to a specific problem), in which the author analyzes the consistent development of Greek modernism. As symbolism defines the beginning of modernism in Greek literature, a special attention is paid to it. A successful attempt is made to clarify the character of Greek symbolism, which the author defines as multifaceted, to stand out foreign models, followed by the poets in interwar period, which they creatively interpret in accordance with national specifics. Fotini Hristakudi shows excellent knowledge of Greek poetry, as well as in-depth analysis of given authors and poems (some of which she has translated herself for the purpose of the study). The author considers the period on which she focuses “possesses a special compactness” and in her survey, she consistently reveals this compactness, based not only on literary samples, but also on historical, folklore, philological and other data. The analysis in the separate chapters reveals her rich knowledge on the history of the Greek people and more precisely on the cultural processes in Greece. In this sense, interest in the habilitation work is laid on the carefully tracing of Greek diglossia in different historical periods, the ideological opposition of the supporters of Demotiki and Katharevousa and as a result, the imposition of Demotiki for a literary norm and of the modernization of Greek literature and culture.

Fotini Hristakudi is one of the young lecturers at the Department, but over the past year she successfully managed to fit into the team of colleagues, participating in all scientific events organized by them – conferences, celebrations, scientific publications. She is an active member of most of the projects, on which the Department lecturers have been working during the last decade.

Her wide knowledge, her ability to teach understandably, make her an interesting lecturer for her students and they appreciate her. A proof of this are the great number of diploma theses at

master's level, dedicated to Greek literature (or to Balkan literatures in a broader plan), developed under her supervision over the years. The Balkan studies students encouraged by her support and guidance have successfully presented their materials at student conferences for many years. In the translation competitions, organized by the Modern Greek Department, our students have won leading places in the last years. Based on her recommendations, the Greek embassy in Bulgaria, repeatedly provides scholarships for summer courses and specializations at Greek universities.

The author's reference correctly reflects the contributing nature of the publications of chief assistant PhD Fotini Hristakudi-Konstantinidu. I would sum up that they allocate a worthy place among the few Greek literature specialists in Bulgaria.

**Conclusion:** The serious scientific production of chief assistant PhD Fotini Hristakudi-Konstantinidu, as well as her successful work as a lecturer, gives me a reason to convincingly recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to support her candidacy for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the above mentioned scientific field and profile.

20<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Sofia

Prof. Dr. Vasilka Alexova