

SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Faculty of Theology

Department of "Historical Theology"

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Ludmil Martinov Malev

member of a scientific jury, according to order RD 38-66/05.02.2024

of a dissertation on:

" The Arian disputes during the reign of Emperor Constantius II (historical-dogmatic study)"

author: **Nina Taneva Koleva**

for awarding the scientific and educational degree "doctor"

by field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4, scientific specialty Religion and Theology (History of Christianity)

Sofia

2024

Data for the Ph.D

Doctoral student Nina Koleva obtained the bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski" in the period 2006-2010 and "master" (2010-2012) in the same faculty. She was enrolled as a doctoral student in 2020. She was dismissed with the right to defense by rector's order from 2023. All preparation, including the writing of the dissertation, was carried out in the department of "Historical Theology" in the Faculty of Arts of the SU. Her academic supervisor is Prof. Dr. Alexander Omarczewski .

The theological and other acquired education, long-term practice in the work in the Church, combined with the constant improvement of qualifications, as well as the opportunity to work with a scientific supervisor who is a leading scientist in the field of Historical Theology, are important prerequisites for the achieved positive end result.

In my opinion, Nina Koleva meets the requirements and meets the criteria of the RSARB and the Regulations for its implementation.

What has been pointed out so far gives me reason to accept. that all procedural rules have been followed and no violations have been committed.

The first meeting of the Scientific Jury approved by order of the rector of SU and according to the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology was held on 20.02.2024 and is reflected in the protocol attached to the documents.

Dissertation data

Nina Koleva's dissertation work, proposed for defense, has a volume of 197 pages and is structurally organized in the following parts: preface, introduction, three chapters, conclusion, references. Each of the chapters is composed of parts with its own internal structure.

In the Preface, the author motivates her choice to focus on doctoral studies and shares the reason why she chose and formulated the topic for development.

The introduction contains the important attributes characteristic of this part, formulated with the necessary precision. The actuality, the goals and the tasks that it has set for their achievement are highlighted. The methodology is indicated. It stands out with the necessary complexity and comprehensiveness. An overview of the most important sources and titles on the subject is made.

The content of individual chapters corresponds to their wording. Particularly impressive is the part indicating the sources and the literature used (193 titles). An impressive number of scientific works in different languages are indicated, which testifies to deep interest and hard work.

The abstract presented by Nina Koleva meets the requirements and allows for a clear and accurate introduction, in a synthesized form, to the text of the dissertation.

The dissertation's publications are sufficient in number and depth and have been published in recognized scientific journals.

Scientific contributions

The dissertation work has a marked contribution character. The PhD student has highlighted his contributions and I take them for granted.

Remarks

Along with the undoubted qualities of this work, in my opinion, there are also some minor weaknesses:

1. In the review of the more important titles on the subject, not only information about the authors and their works should be given, but also a critical analysis should

be made of the most important of them. Thus, the dissertation student's knowledge of these studies with their merits and demerits would stand out.

2. The introductory and explanatory information in the first two chapters is quite extensive, considering the topic of the dissertation work.

Conclusion

I declare that I do not in any way fall under the hypotheses of the law and other normative acts concerning conflict of interests!

The qualities of the current dissertation give me full reason to vote positively "FOR" Nina Taneva Koleva to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4, scientific specialty Religion and Theology (History of Christianity).

Veliko Tarnovo 2024