

ASSESSMENT REPORT

by Prof. Dr. Zapryan Kozludzhov from the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory, Faculty of Philology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in connection with the application for the academic position of *Professor* at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, advertised in issue 31 of the State Newspaper dated 12.04. 2019,

Area of higher education: 2. The Humanities

Professional field: 2.1. Philology

Specialisation: Slavic Literature

Candidates: Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Cholakova, Dr. Habil.

Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Cholakova, Dr. Habil. from the Department of Slavic Philology, Plovdiv University, is the only candidate for the above mentioned position.

The submitted application is complete and in accordance with the legal requirements. It provides comprehensive information about the amount and quality of Assoc. Prof. Cholakova's work and permits an assessment in accordance with the Law of Academic Staff Development. In addition, I have the opportunity to express my personal impression, as I have known Zhorzheta professionally for over 30 years, and worked with her in numerous teaching and research projects.

Her application papers contain an impressive habilitation thesis both in terms of volume and quality, 18 studies and articles, which are presented with this application for the first time, two thirds of which have been published in prestigious journals in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Germany, Romania and Serbia. In addition, I would like to mention her dissertation work for the award of her higher doctorate (Dr. Habil.). Although it has already been presented for another application procedure, this work has laid the grounds for Zhorzheta's participation in the present application process. The content of all papers under review is relevant to the area of specialisation. There is no plagiarism or any incorrect citations.

Academic standing, teaching and academic activities

The presented publications are evidence of solid academic development of the candidate both as a researcher and a lecturer. The attached CV clearly indicates this. What is particularly impressive is Assoc. Prof. Cholakova's high reputation among the Czech academic and literary community, her active role as a lecturer in Bulgarian language, literature and culture at the University on Aix-en Provence and her participation in numerous research projects.

Slavic Dialogues is a journal which was created and has been nurtured by her efforts and active editorial and managerial work.

Assoc. Prof. Cholakova has taught core subjects and electives on Slavic literature and Czech literature in the Bachelor's and Master's programmes at Plovdiv University, and universities in the Czech Republic and France. She has been a permanent member of staff at Plovdiv University since 1985. She has got over 30 years of teaching experience during which she has demonstrated she can motivate students and communicate effectively with them.

The solid body of publications provides enough grounds for the candidate to apply for this position. In fact, they are well above the minimal legal requirements for the position of *Professor*. They clearly demonstrate the candidate's high academic level.

Zhorzheta's habilitation thesis entitled *The Poetics of Melancholy* exhibits an exceptionally high level of understanding of literary theory. It is impressive not only in terms of volume but it manifests the author's skill to select one concept (in this case *melancholy*), which during the Romantic period developed philosophical and aesthetic meanings, through which to analyse numerous universal problems of human existence. Her research work has documented the expression of this concept in Karel Hynek Mácha's literary world and links it to his poetics. The goal has been successfully achieved through tracking the origin and evolution of this concept from Antiquity until the end of the 19th c., the instantiation of these processes in the Czech cultural context and finally in the specific ideas and imagery in the works of the greatest representative of Czech Romanticism. The work contains an Introduction, 24 Chapters and a Conclusion, perfectly structured in terms of coherence and argumentative logic. The bibliography contains more than 250 sources precisely cited there as well as in the text.

The synopses of the other 18 papers presented with the application are clear and to the point and also demonstrate a high level of understanding of literary theory.

Conclusion

All of the above allows me to state that Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Cholakova, the only candidate for the above mentioned position of *Professor*, has met all legal conditions and requirements permitting the award of this position. Providing a highly positive assessment of the candidate, without any doubt I recommend the honourable committee to suggest that the Philology Faculty Council appoint Assoc. Prof. Zhrozheta Cholakova to the academic position *Professor* in the area of higher education 2. The Humanities 2.2. Philology (Slavic literature)

12.08.2019

Plovdiv

Member of the Evaluation Committee:

/Prof. Dr. Zapryan Kozludzhov/