

## EXAMINER'S ASSESSMENT

**Dr. Yordan Simeonov Efftimov - Assoc. Prof. at New Bulgarian University, Sofia**

on the materials submitted for the competition

for the academic position Associate Professor

**at the "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv**

in the higher education programme 2.1 Philology

in the professional discipline Bulgarian Literature (Bulgarian Literature post World War I)

Taking part in the competition for the position Associate Professor, announced in the 31<sup>st</sup> issue (12<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019) of "Darjaven Vestnik" as well as on the website of "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv regarding the requirement of the Department of Literature and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Philology, is Dr. Gergina Vasileva Krasteva from the Department of Literary History and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Philology, University of Plovdiv.

### **1. Introduction of the the procedure and the applicant**

#### **Subject:**

According to order № P33-2876 of 11.06.2019, issued by the rector of the "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv, I have been appointed as a member of the jury for the competition for the academic position Associate Professor in the higher education programme 2. Humanities, the professional discipline 2.1. Philology, Bulgarian Literature - Bulgarian Literature post World War I, regarding the requirement of the Department of Literary History and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Philology.

One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition: Assistant Professor Gergina Vasileva Krasteva from the Department of Literary History and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Philology, University of Plovdiv.

Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Gergina Krasteva is a set of materials on paper which is in accordance with the Rules for the development of the academic staff of the University of Plovdiv and includes all the documents stipulated therein.

The candidate has submitted a total of 28 scientific works, including the monograph „Personal and Anthological. Autoanthological Models and Personal Anthology Appearances in Bulgarian Lyrics 2008 – 2017“, LiterNet, ISBN 978-954-304-439-9, 315 pages, Varna, 2019 (on an electronic device), and a list of 27 research works, 9 of which on the topic of habilitation study, and 18 others. The full versions of all works are submitted as well.

### **Personal impression:**

Gergina Krasteva has graduated Bulgarian Philology at the “St. Cyril and St. Methodius“ University of Veliko Tarnovo. In the period between 2003 and 2006, she was a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Theory of Literature at the Faculty of Philology of the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv. In 2007 she defended her dissertation on the topic “The Aspects of Lyrical Self-Observation in the Poetry of the 1970s”. She has been an Assistant Professor since 2008 and a Senior Assistant at the Department of Literary History and Comparative Literature at “Paisii Hilendarski” University since 2009. In 2011 she won the competition for the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Literary History and Comparative Literature at the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv.

At the same time Gergina Krasteva is an active literary critic. Among her manifestations in this field are not only reviews and critical articles in various scientific publications, but also her ongoing engagement as a contributor and editor of “Stranitza” magazine. She and her colleagues have been maintaining a permanent television programme on the channel BNT2 called „How Should We Read?“

Gergina Krasteva is also a permanent associate member of the research team (in the sector “University Centers in the Country“) of the research programme “The Literature of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria (1946–1990)”. (see: Towards a New Literary History. Five Years of the Research Programme “The Literature of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria (1946–1990)”, Sofia, Queen Mab, 2013, p. 23–26)

## **2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities**

### *Assessment of the educational and pedagogical activity and preparation of the applicant*

Gergina Krasteva is a participant in two major projects, one of which aimed at international students.

In the period between 2009 and 2011 she was a part of the project “The Life of Books (The Dictatorship of the Spirit and the Constitution of (Mis)Appropriation)“, the activity of which was

reported in January 2011 and which is supported by the Research Fund at the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv. The project leader was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Ruskov.

Between 2013 and 2014 she participated in the international project for Bulgarian students “The “Levski” Text – analyzed in its own and in unfamiliar context”. The leader of this project was Prof. Dr. Lyubka Lipcheva-Prandzheva.

### *Evaluation of the applicant’s scientific and applied science activity*

The candidate’s habilitation work’s theme is the autoanthological lyrical models of the contemporary Bulgarian poets in the period 2008–2017. It consists of four chapters and a conclusion. In **the first part** – “Contexts, research approaches, attempts at organization“ the research substantiates its interest considering the specific status of the lyrical book – a personal/ an author’s anthology, as having a strong self-reflective character, since it focuses, in a general and complex artistic territory, on the personal authorial process of selection and the intention of high representativeness of the anthological content, which turns this type of publication into a collection of the “high aesthetic maximalism”. The autoanthological model is discussed in the context of already established research theses (Bilyana Kurtasheva, Plamen Doynov, Svetlozar Igov, Mihail Nedelchev), which perceive it as a result of personal aesthetic attitudes, as a strong expression of the author’s will, but also as an accumulation that deepens the process of personal anthological thinking and, in this sense - an crucial part of the process of the self-understanding of literature, based also on the “personal canon” that each author creates through personal anthologies. The choice of the investigated chronological perimeter between 2008 and 2017 is also substantiated as a period with a specific character of the “accumulation” of personal anthological publications; the list of printed personal anthologies is outlined and their specifics are agreed upon, an attempt is made to arrange them according to occasions of different nature; the personal anthology initiative is commented on as a specific form of creative recapitulation and (non)finality in the personal aesthetic choice for a given creative period.

**The second part** of the monograph (“**Personal Anthologies - Names, Models, Concepts**”) presents 14 Bulgarian poets and a total of 16 of their anthology books, which were published during the period. The principle of the arrangement gathers 14 autonomous subsections, each of which deals with a specific author and analyzes the model in which he builds his lyrical anthological publication from the period. In this part research efforts operate on two “levels” – focusing on the anthologies of the period, the analysis works textologically with the lyrical texts included in them. The “close-up” textual work maintained throughout this monographic section on both a textual and a paratextual

level takes into account the specific creative and biographical “disputes” that have accompanied the development of anthological texts and books.

**The third part** of the monograph (“**Selected after the Death or Posthumous Being of the Poets (Veselin Sariiev, Yanaki Petrov, Zdravko Kissov, Grisha Trifonov, Veselin Tachev, Nikolay Kanchev)**”) deals with posthumous anthology books which appeared in the period. Given the natural presumption that these publications are the works of a compiler and that it is impossible to show the author’s will during the preparation of a representative lyrical book, and based on textual and literary-historical research, the study analyzes the anthological, posthumously developed concepts, placing particular emphasis on the role of the compiler.

**The fourth part** of the monograph (“**The First Anthologies of the “Last Poets”**”) analyzes the autoanthological “biographies” of some of the poets of the 1980s.

**The final part** of the monograph (“**An Alternative Conclusion**”) summarizes the results of the research and outlines the potential prospects for continued scientific reading of the autoanthological artistic models.

The monograph contains 315 pages and deals with 407 bibliographic texts, 300 of which are fictional texts, while the other 107 are critical texts, discussions and interviews.

Thus, this work alone, even if we have not yet examined the candidate’s other studies, is sufficient reason to conclude that an entire scientific field, related to the central problem of contemporary literary education - the problem of the canon and its construction and demolition, has been examined.

### **Assessment of the applicant’s personal contribution**

The habilitation paper presented for participation in the competition for the academic position Associate Professor is a published monograph titled „Personal and Anthological. Autoanthological Models and Personal Anthology Appearances in Bulgarian Lyrics 2008 – 2017“, LiterNet, ISBN 978-954-304-439-9, 315 pages, Varna, 2019. The chosen topic is a natural continuation of the candidate’s lasting scientific interest in the field of the history of contemporary Bulgarian literature and in particular of contemporary Bulgarian poetry. It came about as a result of two long-lasting processes – one literary-critical and the other literary-historical. This work brings back to the academic field the idea that operational criticism can substantially assist academic research, as it is vital for effective operational criticism.

### **3. Critical comments and recommendations**

The habilitation work of Gergina Krasteva undoubtedly is a challenge in terms of the introduction, as a particularly important subject that is part of the scientific literary-historical study of self-modeling that contemporary poets use in relation to their creative personalities. The work is comprehensive and well-focused. Known doubts are only the presence of less significant for the national literary scene authors, who are present to add more information content-wise, but mainly create a cluster.

## CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted and presented by Gergina Krasteva **meet all requirements** of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation of the above-mentioned Act, and the corresponding Regulations of the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv.

The candidate has submitted a **significant** number of scientific works which were published after the materials used in the defense of the educational and scientific degree Doctor. The applicant’s work has original scientific contributions that have received recognition in the community. Gergina Krasteva’s scientific and teaching qualification are **self-evident**.

The results achieved by Gergina Krasteva in the educational and research fields **fully** correspond with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria.

After becoming acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and an analysis of their significance and the scientific contributions, I find it justifiable to give my **positive** assessment and **recommend** to the Scientific Jury to submit a proposal to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Philology appointing Gergina Krasteva for the academic position of Assistant Professor at the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv in the professional discipline Bulgarian Literature (Bulgarian Literature post World War I).

09.09.2019

Drafted by: .....

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordan Efftimov