

## PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Gergina Vasileva Krasteva, PhD  
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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for occupation of the academic position of “Professor”  
at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

under higher education field 2. Humanities

Professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature – Bulgarian Literature after the First World War)

By Order No P33-3117 dated 12.07.2021 of the Rector of the Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the occupation of the academic position of **“Professor” at the University of Plovdiv** under Higher education field 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature – Bulgarian Literature after the First World War), **announced for the needs of** the History of Literature and Comparative Literary Studies Department at the Faculty of Philology.

The only candidate participating in the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Professor”, announced in State Gazette, Issue 40 of 14.05.2021 and in the website of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv <https://procedures.uni-plovdiv.bg> for the needs of the History of Literature and Comparative Literary Studies Department at the Faculty of Philology, is **Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Ichevska, Doctor of Sciences in Philology**.

### **General review of the procedure and the candidate**

All documents required in the procedure have been provided by the candidate, and the deadlines for the individual stages of the competition have been met. Tatyana Ivanova Ichevska was born in 1970 and graduated from the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv with two Master’s degrees – one in Bulgarian Philology and one in Slavic Philology (Czech Language). After a successful competition in 1994, she was appointed an Assistant at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Plovdiv. In 1999, with a dissertation on the topic: *“Functional and Semantic Aspects of the Mythical in the New Bulgarian Literature,”* she acquired the scientific and educational degree “Doctor of Philosophy”. In 1997, she became a Senior Assistant, and in 2000 – a Chief Assistant. In the period from 2002 until 2006, T. Ichevska was a Lecturer in Bulgarian Language, Literature and Culture at the Ján Amos Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. She was habilitated in 2007, and in 2018 she was awarded the degree of “Doctor of Sciences in Philology” after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic: *“Medical Codes in the Bulgarian Prose from the Liberation to the 50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.”*

## **General characteristics of the candidate's professional background**

**Educational and pedagogical background and activities:** In the documentation under the procedure for the period from 1994 until 2021, the candidate has listed lecture courses and seminars on the history of Bulgarian literature after the First World War, on the anthropology of the Slavs, and on Bulgarian literature after the First World War to the present day, implemented in bachelor and master programs under the Faculty of Philology at the University of Plovdiv. Furthermore, referring to the period from 2007 up to this day, the applicant has stated that she has developed and conducted 14 lecture courses in elective disciplines for bachelor and master programs under the Faculty of Philology. Among the main current courses for master programs are those that deal with processes and trends in contemporary Bulgarian prose from the 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. Assoc. Prof. T. Ichevska, Doctor of Sciences in Philology, has many years of teaching experience, an important part of which is her teaching work abroad – as a lecturer in Bulgarian Language, Literature and Culture at the Ján Amos Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. She has participated extensively as a lecturer at European universities under the Erasmus and Erasmus+ programs. Ichevska is an active and dedicated organizer of one of the most authoritative forums for young scientists in our country – the traditional National Conference for students and doctoral students, which has been held at the Plovdiv University for more than 20 years now. Her commitment to the forum is also reflected in her regular participation in the preparation and compilation of scientific proceedings with reports from the conference.

Assoc. Prof. Ichevska is an authoritative, demanding, and precise lecturer who is highly respected by her students. She has over 80 scientific supervisions of successfully finalized diploma projects, as well as a number of student researches for participation in scientific forums. Last but not least, under her scientific guidance, a dissertation on the award of educational and scientific degree of “Doctor” was successfully defended in 2020.

**Scientific background and activities:** Assoc. Prof. T. Ichevska, Doctor of Sciences in Philology, is a participant in many national and international forums organized by the History of Literature and Comparative Literary Studies Department at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Plovdiv. She has also been a member of the research teams of eight realized research projects. Some of them are directly related to improving the quality and practical applicability of the results of academic activities (elaboration of new curricula, participation in the Student Internships Project). From 1995 until 2021, Assoc. Prof. T. Ichevska has been the author of over 90 scientific publications and has participated as a compiler in 16 scientific publications, in 4 textbooks and teaching aids and tools designed for high school education. She is the author of five scientific monographs and dozens of reviews of scientific and artistic books, some of which are published in her author's column “Pages of Tatyana Ichevska” in the Page Magazine. Assoc. Prof. Ichevska also participates in the present procedure with the book *Bulgarian Literature. Plots, Contexts, Research*. The book unites a total of 19 scientific texts, originally written at different times, but composed here in three parts as bound in three separate thematic and conceptual cores. The first part of the book, entitled *Temptations and Redemptions*, includes analytical observations on literary phenomena that outline a very broad research perimeter. In it, the articles, thematically focused on the issues of women's perception, work with a rich array of artistic and non-artistic texts. The author's careful research has

sensed and traced curious dialogues between literary works coming from different historical times, which in her research perspective are not only analytically substantiated and interpretively intriguing, but also productive as an opportunity for ongoing scientific research (*The Slavic Woman in the Mirror of Our Literature, The Golgotha of the Bulgarian Queens*). The selection of articles included in the second part of the book – *Worlds, Desires and Sufferings*, present Assoc. Prof. T. Ichevska as one of the insightful researchers of corpus authors for our literary canon, such as Yordan Yovkov, Angel Karaliychev, Emiliyan Stanev, Georgi Karaslavov, and Dimitar Dimov. Her analytical sensitivity to the themes of sinfulness, guilt, power, punishment, and death is designed in the perspective of complex research contexts related to the person and one's relationship with the community in areas of crisis experiences, such as the transition from patriarchy to modernity, war, attitude to institutions, and instances of different order. The articles in the third part of the book *Perspectives. (In)Consistencies* examine the patterns of exposure of works by Y. Yovkov and D. Dimov in the language of cinema and fine arts, and they also deal with problems of reception of their works as a result of publishing practices and translation procedures. The intersection of Bulgarian and Slavic storytelling traditions is another concept that draws her attention. In accordance with what the researcher marked in the documentation on the procedure, I would like to confirm that the texts in this part account for the most contributing merits (five out of a total of nine noted by the author) of the book *Bulgarian Literature. Plots, Contexts, Research*.

### **Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks or recommendations to the scientific output and the educational and pedagogical activity of the candidate with regards to the competition procedure.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Ichevska, Doctor of Sciences in Philology, **meet** all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation, and the respective Regulations of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. There are **original scientific and applied contributions** in the works of the candidate. The works also have a high practical applicability and are directly related to the academic work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Ichevska **is beyond any doubt**. After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented under the competition, the analysis of their significance, and the scientific and applied contributions contained therein, I **can confidently give my positive assessment** and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Ichevska, Doctor of Sciences in Philology, for the academic position of "Professor" at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv under Professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature – Bulgarian Literature after the First World War).

07.09.2021

**Reviewer:** Assoc. Prof. Gergina Krasteva, PhD