

ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

from

Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Andreas Stavru,
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on

according to the competition announced in SG No. 92 of 18.11.2022,

for the **academic position "Professor"**

at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

in sphere of higher education

3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field

3.1. Sociology, anthropology, and sciences of culture,
scientific speciality

"History of sociology – phenomenological sociology and socioanalysis"

1. Information about the procedure

I present this opinion in my capacity as an internal member of a scientific jury for the academic position of "professor" based on: ZRASRB, PPZRASRB, Order of the Rector of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" RD 21-356/17.02.2023 and Decisions from the first meeting of the scientific jury.

One candidate participated in the competition for the academic position of "professor" in professional direction 3.1 "Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences", the scientific specialty "History of Sociology - Phenomenological Sociology and Socioanalysis": Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva. The documents were submitted on time and correspond to the requirements of the ZRSARB. At the first meeting of the scientific jury, it was decided to prepare an opinion on the evaluation of the publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva.

This opinion is based on the materials provided by the author, namely: autobiography; list of scientific works participating in the competition, including: 1 monograph, 5 studies (of which 2 published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information) and 3 articles; list of all scientific works; certificate of compliance with the national minimum requirements; declaration of originality and authenticity; annotation of the materials provided for participation in the contest (in Bulgarian and English); self-assessment of contributions (in Bulgarian and English); list of citations; documents for academic work; documents for scientific research activity; reference for fulfilment of additional

requirements of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" for the occupation of the academic position "professor".

The focus of this opinion will be the monograph "Overlivings. Phenomenology and socioanalysis of generative time" (2023). The monograph covers, systematizes, and updates several scientific publications of Svetlana Sabeva, the result of her long-term and fruitful scientific work. Its content directly addresses questions included in the scientific specialty: "History of Sociology - Phenomenological Sociology and Socioanalysis", for which the current competition is announced.

2. Short biography of the candidate

Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva was born in 1964. She graduated from the University of St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy in 1988, obtaining a master's degree in Sociology. During the period 1994-1997, he was a full-time graduate student in General Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski", and in 2001 he obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD) in the scientific specialty 05.11.01 "Sociology" based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Publicity and recognition (Hannah Arendt as an opportunity before sociology)".

During the period 1989-1990, Svetlana Sabeva was a specialist at the Research Institute for Youth, Sofia, and from 1990 he was a research associate at the Research Institute for Youth (1989-1990), the National Center for the Study of Public Opinion (1990-19991) and the Institute for social criticism "Criticism and Humanism" (1992). Since 1997, Svetlana Sabeva has been a teacher at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", where he successively held the academic positions of assistant and associate professor. She also held administrative positions, including the positions of head of the Department of Sociology and Human Sciences, director of the Institute of Social Analysis and deputy director of the Institute of Critical Studies, etc.

Svetlana Sabeva participated in numerous editorial, translation, and publishing activities in scientific periodicals in Bulgaria. She is a member of various editorial boards, including deputy. Ch. editor of specialized journals (Criticism and Humanism, Heterodoxy, Altera Academica, Sociological Problems). Svetlana Sabeva is a very well-known, well-established, and respected translator from German of several key texts for sociology and philosophy.

Svetlana Sabeva's interests are clearly defined in her priority fields of socioanalysis, phenomenology and critical theory, where she works on many productive scientific topics, among them: the analysis of the "sphere of vulnerability", the problem of generative time, the question of the Other and identity, the challenges of transcendental phenomenology and post-

Foucauldian analytics of the 'world of bodies'. I would pay special attention to the critique of modern bio-capitalism, which is particularly significant for me, and which includes one of the most vivid and impactful parts of the monograph "Overlivings. Phenomenology and socioanalysis of generative time".

Svetlana Sabeva is a well-established and recognizable teacher at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", who willingly devotes any necessary time to participate in various extracurricular initiatives related to the educational and scientific pursuits of sociology students. Among the current courses taught by Svetlana Sabeva in the reference "Documents for academic work" presented by her are: "History of sociology" in its two parts: classical sociology and modern sociology; "Introduction to Social Analysis (Phenomenological Anthropology)", "Social Analysis", which is presented in two formats: for the bachelor's degree and for the doctoral degree; "Phenomenology", "Existential Socioanalysis". All academic disciplines fully fall within the scientific specialty of the announced competition: "History of Sociology - Phenomenological Sociology and Socioanalysis".

Svetlana Sabeva is the author of 3 individual monographs and a participant in one collective monograph, as well as the author of 8 compilations, 47 articles and 4 reviews. She participated in 3 scientific interviews and many public discussions. Her academic development includes 1 leadership and 3 participations in national scientific and educational projects, 3 participations in international research projects, as well as 4 guest lectures at foreign universities, 9 scientific reports at international scientific forums. Her participation in 19 (selectively indicated) scientific reports in national scientific forums are also presented. For this activity of hers, Svetlana Sabeva has 82 citations indicated by her and 2 reviews for her monograph "Broken Sociality. Rethinking Understanding Sociology" (2010).

3. Compliance with the Minimal National Standards for the academic degree of Doctor of Sciences

According to the reference submitted by the candidate regarding the minimum required points by groups of indicators for a professor, Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of professor, as well as the additional requirements introduced by the Faculty of Philosophy and History of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

4. Evaluation of the contents academic achievements of the candidate

As I indicated in Section 1 of this opinion, the focus of the substantive analysis of Svetlana Sabeva's scientific achievements will be her monograph "Overlivings. Phenomenology and socioanalysis of generative time", published in 2023.

The Thesis consists of an Introduction, Three Parts (Part One "Lifetime and Society's Suffering: A Sociology of Generativity; Part Two "The Generative World: Perspectives on Genetic Phenomenology" and Part Three "Promulgation of Generative Time: Towards a Phenomenological Critique of Biocapitalism") and Epilogue. As the exhibition progresses, there is an increasing relevance of the subject of research, reaching a socio-analytical and critical review of fully presented events in contemporary times such as the global pandemic caused by COVID 19 (2020 – 2022) and the war in Ukraine (2022 – 2023).

In the Introduction, the central concepts of the monograph are introduced: "overlivings" as a "polysemic word, indicating the act of outliving someone and being outlived by another, surviving something within oneself or surviving oneself" (p. 9), as well as the theoretical doublet (p. 10) of survival: "generative time", understood as a "specific form of historicity". These concepts will serve as an important tool for understanding the entire monograph, whose scientific contributions result precisely from problematizing these concepts in different contexts.

I would like to emphasize one exceptionally important merit of Sabeva's work: its dialogical nature. Svetlana Sabeva conducts her scientific research in continuous dialogue with established names in world and Bulgarian sociology. In the exposition of the monograph, the theses of numerous authors are skilfully woven in and analysed, among which would point out: Jacques Derrida (the impossibility of the simultaneity of encounter in death, pp. 12, 60, 74, 242), Judith Butler (the biopolitical governance of mourning, pp. 12, 61-64, 77-78), Giorgio Agamben (the unshareable "bare life" as a dominant form of life, p. 23), Walter Benjamin (the concept of experience that (trans)forms into a flash, p. 24; flesh as historical mortality, pp. 82-83; the problem of Psammenitus, pp. 161-162).

Bernhard Waldenfels (the concept of spheres of vulnerability, introduced on p. 34; phenomenology of the foreign: 69-71) along with Karl Marx are the main theoretical centre around which Sabeva's critique is organized in the Seventh Chapter of the monograph, dedicated to biocapitalism (pp. 206-214).

Some of the key authors referenced in the monograph include Pierre Bourdieu (the banality of suffering and the science of the suffering subject, pp. 40-50, 78-79; absolute power: p. 234), Harold Garfinkel (ethnomethodology and lived local practices, pp. 50-54), Paul Ricoeur (paradigms of dying, pp. 75-77), and Jessica Benjamin (the concept of so-called "embodied witnessing," pp. 99-101).

Edmund Husserl is a central figure appearing repeatedly in the monograph, analysed both independently (pp. 166-175, 205-206) and in relation to other authors: together with Heidegger, Hannah Arendt, and Giovanni Stanghellini (pp. 104-128); together with Cuts and Merleau-Ponty (pp. 133-159); together with Karl Marx (pp. 211-214). The Epilogue of the trans-textual dialogue also includes Max Weber with his theory on the role of the state in war (pp. 243-245), where the so-called "community in death" and the significance of "death on the battlefield" in post-heroic European societies are problematized.

The dialogue between Svetlana Sabeva and Kolyo Koev on the topic of otherness as a radical relationship is scientifically productive. This dialogue starts on pages 56 and 66, but unfolds fully in Section 4 of Chapter 6, entitled "Intersubjective Mediation: In Dialogue with Kolyo Koev" (pp. 181-190), and continues beyond it (p. 197). The key concept here is the so-called "reverse" and even "psychotic" presentation of myself through the other (p. 182), and the discussion related to it is an important part of the contributions of the whole monograph.

Other important dialogues in the monograph are those with Darin Tenev (regarding the relationship with death as a "transcendence in reverse," p. 74), with Deyan Deyanov (regarding the theory of hypermodern capitalism, pp. 204, 242), as well as with Ivan Krastev (regarding the lack of narrative in epidemics, pp. 235-236). Throughout the pages of the monograph, we also encounter the names of Miglena Nikolchina (pp. 89, 90), Alexander Kyosev (p. 89), Ivaylo Dichev (p. 92), Rumen Avramov (pp. 92-93), and Andrey Bundzhulov (p. 94). This not only demonstrates Subeva's good awareness of key scientific research in the field, but also her ability to engage in dialogue and energize scientific knowledge successfully and productively.

I confirm the contributions pointed out by Svetlana Subeva. I would like to draw special attention to the concepts she has developed, such as generative time ("as a simultaneous experience of the non-simultaneity of lives," p. 80), bio-unconsciousness (p. 80), infectious sociality (p. 224), and embodied normativity (p. 224). Although developed in different contexts, they demonstrate the power of socioanalysis and the ability of generative phenomenology to penetrate beyond surface layers of appearance and to outlive the temporal historicity of inadequacy.

I would also like to emphasize the so-called "aporia" of the property category when applied to the body itself (p. 199). They are the subject of the Seventh Chapter, entitled "Biocapitalism and the World of Life." The analysis is focused on the so-called "hormonal production" (p. 198), "blood donation labour" (p. 198), and I would add: "pregnancy and childbirth labour." Here's what Svetlana Subeva points out about the emerging market of new "life goods":

"The market of bodily substances, however, is pervaded by aporia, as it does not obey either the paradigm of mutual giving, nor that of equivalent exchange, and the quasi-exchange act within it is accompanied by a characteristic unease for both sides, even when it is voluntary and legal" (p. 198).

The market that offers the opportunity for profit in the form of "biological time" has one main production model. It reconfigures lifetime (p. 201) by using the productivity of life (p. 200) to create a new type of body:

"People are no longer body-to-body, but body-in-body - they are transplanted and auto-transplanted, surrogate mothers, bodies with neuro-implants, exo-skeletons, etc." (p. 202).

Here, the theses of the Petra Gering regarding the specific added value extracted from the circulation of bodily substances and biodata (p. 202-203) are particularly appropriate and indicative.

Overall, the monograph is held in a clear methodological framework and follows a specific order of development, which is fixed and confirmed with brief summaries (conclusions) located at the end of each chapter. The text is engaging to read, with its merits being its depth and dialogicity.

5. Impact of the publications of the candidate

Svetlana Sabeva has submitted 82 noticed citations that meet the minimum requirements for holding the position of "professor". Five of them are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (SCOPUS, SpringerLink). Her monograph "The Fractured Sociality. Rethinking Understanding Sociology" (2010) has two reviews. It is also the most cited scientific work of Svetlana Sabeva: with a total of 26 citations, which testify to the impact of the book on Bulgarian sociology and the scientific research carried out in this field.

The presented citations fully comply with the normative requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor".

6. Critical commentary on the submitted thesis

I have no recommendations and notes for the candidate.

7. Personal opinion about the candidate

I know Svetlana Sabeva from our joint work in 2020 at the Department of Sociology and Humanities at the Faculty of Philosophy and History at University of Plovdiv "Paisii

Hilendarski". She is an established scholar with a clearly expressed opinion and the ability to participate productively in any important scientific, educational, and administrative activities related to the department. Prior to that, my acquaintance with Svetlana Sabeva was due to my participation in various academic and scientific forums where she presented results from her research work. Svetlana Sabeva has always been an active participant in these forums, with clearly expressed scientific theses, who knows how to attract attention, engage deeply, and argue her positions.

I have no common publications with Svetlana Sabeva. We work within the framework of a common national research project: "Sociology and Humanities - a Possible Reassembly of Social Knowledge at the Beginning of the 21st Century (a case study) (2021-2022)," led by Nina Nikolova.

Svetlana Sabeva is a conscientious and responsible scholar who works in some of the most topical and productive fields of contemporary sociology. Her hard work, social commitment, and willingness to help her students and colleagues are recognizable by all scholars connected with sociology in Bulgaria. This is clearly evidenced by the detailed information given in the "Documents for Educational Work" report. Svetlana Sabeva is an internationally renowned scholar who has already made a significant contribution and will continue to leave her distinctive mark not only on the activities of the Department of Sociology and Humanities at FHF at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", but also on the development of socioanalysis, phenomenology, and critical theory in Bulgaria.

8. Conclusion

From the submitted documents, it can be concluded that Svetlana Sabeva meets the minimum national and institutional requirements for the relevant academic position. Her research, publication and teaching activity has all the necessary qualities to be elected to the academic position of "professor" in professional direction 3.1 "Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences", the scientific specialty "History of sociology - phenomenological sociology and socioanalysis". I firmly vote "for" Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva to be elected to the academic position of "professor" at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

25.03.2023

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Stavru