

OPINION

of Prof. Dr. Vladimir Nikolaev Gradev

on the materials submitted for participation in a contest
for the academic position of *'Professor'*
of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

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

In the competition for the position of 'Profesor' as announced in the State Gazette, No. 92 as of 18 November 2022, and on the webpage of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Sociology and Human Sciences of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the University, there is one candidate applying: Assoc.Prof. PhD Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

In the competition on professional field: 3.1 Sociology, anthropology and sciences of culture (scientific speciality: History of sociology – phenomenological sociology and socioanalysis), the only candidate applying is Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva. The submitted body of documents and attached textual contents is complete and entirely in compliance to minimal national requirements under Art. 2B of the Development of Academic Faculty in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the University's additional requirements.

General description of the applicant's activity

Svetlana Sabeva graduated in 1988 in Sociology in the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia where in 2001 she obtained the educational and scientific degree of 'Doctor' (PhD) in the scientific speciality 05.11.01 Sociology, on the basis of a defended dissertation thesis on 'Public Space and Recognition (Hannah Arendt as a possibility for sociology)'. Since 1997, she has been working as a lecturer in the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv where she became habilitated as Associate Professor and where she is the Head of the Department of Sociology and the Human Sciences.

Assoc.Prof. Sabeva has had an extensive scientific research activity. It suffices to note that she is the leader of the project 'Socioanalytic model for diagnosing social suffering: the

discrepancy between bodily and discursive practices’, a research project of the Faculty of Philosophy and History funded by the Department of Scientific Applied Activity of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, 2019–2021, she has been taking part in national and international research projects such as e.g. the individual research project ‘Das Leiden an der Gesellschaft: Sozioanalyse und Anthropologie der zeitgenössischen Leidensformen’ supported by the Humboldt Foundation and carried out in the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, October 2017 – January 2018, as well as other 5 national and international projects; she has been a guest lecturer in the universities of Bochum, Frankfurt am Main, Muenster. She is a member of the international scientific network of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She is a reviewer of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany, in the fields of ‘Social sciences’ and ‘Practical philosophy’; she is a member of the Bulgarian Sociological Association and the Humboldt Union of Bulgaria. She is a deputy editor-in-chief of the *Heterodoxia* journal and a member of the editorial board of the *Sociological Problems* journal. She has taken part in numerous conferences. She has scientific publications in foreign and Bulgarian peer-reviewed and referenced specialized editions.

The participation of Assoc.Prof. Svetlana Sabeva in this competition is based on her 25 years of specialization in the sphere of teaching the basic discipline of History of Sociology and its related profiling disciplines Socioanalysis and Phenomenology, as well as practical work with students in the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Svetlana Sabeva is applying with one monograph, two articles published in referenced periodicals and 5 studies published in peer-reviewed editions and collections.

In the monograph *Overlivings. Phenomenology and socioanalysis of generative time*, Assoc.Prof. Sabeva studies – from the perspectives of genetic phenomenology, socioanalysis, and critical sociology of biopower – the problem of generative time viewed as a specific form of historicity that is concretized in relation to the era of supermodernity. She performs a phenomenological conceptualization of generative time in order to make generative time emerge as the inseparable unity between existential and political phenomena whose interweaving can be viewed as the ‘substratum’ of the contemporary politics of life and death.

The article *The world of bodies and the era of biopower* views the world of bodies in the era of supermodernity in tracing the effects of the dispositif of supermodern biosciences and biotechnologies and the dispositif of neoliberal biopolitics and bioeconomies.

The study *“Life with the Virus”. A Phenomenology of Infectious Sociality* demonstrates the possibilities of the phenomenological approach of reflection on the structural

transformations of the life-world under the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic. This theme is also concretized and deepened in the article *Biosocial fragmentations: bodies, intellect, and caring female labour*

The study *Reification of Life-Time: Towards a Phenomenological Critique of Biocapitalism* explores the specific reification of lived corporeality in the dispositif of supermodern biopolitics, biotechnologies and bioeconomies.

The study *The sublimity of the rational: approaches to Weber's thesis of the disenchantment of the world* considers critical approaches to Weber's thesis of the disenchantment of the world.

The study *Violence and language. Notes on the socioanalysis of the documents of the former State Security* explores the interpenetration between violence and language in the documents in the archive of the State Security.

The study *The authorized body: the politaesthetics of editing in weekly newsreels*, by using a visual archive of weekly newsreels of the 1947–1971 period, raises the problem of legitimation of power in the classical phase of the Bulgarian 'socialist society'.

The main scientific and research contributions of Assoc.Prof. Sabeva are: conceptualization of the research field of socioanalysis; elaborating a theoretical network for the study of spheres of vulnerability in the static and genetic aspects; carrying out exemplary empirical analyses in the field of socioanalysis of generativity; outlining a conceptual network for the study of the life-world as a generative world; outlining structural transformations of the life-world under the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic and more generally of a research field related to the world of bodies and thence a more general outlining of a border field between the critique of contemporary biocapitalism and the phenomenology of generative time.

In her teaching practice, Assoc.Prof. Sabeva skillfully combines the presentation of fundamental theoretical knowledge with introducing new sociological approaches and field research into the practice of students. Her theoretical developments are original, innovative, and confirmed by exemplarily carried out empirical studies. I have no critical remarks or recommendations as to her teaching and scientific activity.

Conclusion: The works of Assoc.Prof. Sabeva contain original and scientific contributions that have received national and international recognition. Her scientific professional qualification is doubtless and her results entirely correspond to the minimal national requirements and the additional requirements of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

After becoming acquainted with the materials and scientific works submitted for the contest, analyzing their importance and the scientific and applied contributions they contain, I find it entirely justified to give my unequivocal positive evaluation and vote for the Scientific Jury to produce a proposal report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the election of Svetlana Temelkova Sabeva to the academic position of 'Professor'.

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Opinion produced by:

(signature)

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