

## **OPINION**

by Prof. doctor of historical sciences Diana Atanasova Radoinova,

Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of "associate professor"

at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,  
professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences,  
name of the scientific specialty Folkloristics - Folklore and religion.

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of 19.11.2024 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Ethnology at the Faculty of Philosophy and History, the candidate is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Borislava Petkova Kostova from the Department of Ethnology, Faculty of Philosophy and History of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate.**

The competition procedure has been duly complied with, in accordance with the The Act on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". The candidate has submitted all required documents for participation in the competition. The only candidate, Borislava P. Kostova, meets the scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" and even exceeds them: with a required minimum of 400 points, she enters the competition with 510 points.

I have known my colleague Kostova for more than 15 years, I have witnessed her scientific growth and am familiar with a large part of her scientific works. I am convinced that she has the necessary qualities as an engaging and skilled teacher and scientific competencies that allow her to be awarded the academic title of "associate professor".

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

Practically the entire career and academic path of candidate Borislava P. Kostova is connected to the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". She is its graduate and from 1996 to the present she has worked in various positions there. In 2011, she was awarded the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the field of "Folklore Studies" (05.04.09, diploma No. 34797/11.01.2011) after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Bulgarian Legends of the Fall - Folklore Interpretations and Canonical Text".

The teaching work of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Kostova is associated with a large number of lecture courses in disciplines related to her scientific competencies: "Folklore Culture", "Mythology", "New Holidays and Invented Traditions", "Anthropology of Folklore", "Culturology", "Ethnology of Plastic Arts", "Activities in Cultural Institutions", delivered to students at the University of Plovdiv and its affiliates. She has 5 successful graduates and has worked with 9 international students.

In addition, she is actively involved in extracurricular activities as a leader of international summer traveling seminars and summer student schools.

The scientific work of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Kostova is also seriously protected. She enters the competition with 2 monographs, 3 studies, 16 articles in peer-reviewed scientific collections, of which 2 – in foreign publications and 2 chapters in collective monographs in a foreign language. She is the compiler of 12 scientific collections. She presents 14 scientific citations, among which there are some – in foreign publications. She also has a scientific specialization in the city of Lodz, Poland.

Her publishing activity puts into scientific circulation many topics that are little-developed in our folklore studies. The main scientific contributions of the candidate Kostova in the scientific fields of folklore studies, medieval studies and religious studies can be summarized as follows: constitution of the folklore and Christian ideological characteristics of one of the main characters in demonology (the devil); the connections of Bulgarian folklore with the dualistic representations inherited from pagan religious systems, with the Byzantine cultural heritage and the formation of folklore Christianity; the internal process of interactions between folklore, Christian doctrine, Bogomil dualism and apocryphal literature; analysis of the characteristics of folk Christianity and folk literature (legends); research of new forms of celebration in urban environments (the holiday of March 1 – „Baba Marta“, the appearance of the „martenitsa“-tricolor and new pseudo-folklore versions of etiological legends).

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks or recommendations regarding the teaching work and scientific production of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Borislava P. Kostova.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on all of the above, I believe that in terms of volume, thematic focus and scientific contributions, the scientific production and teaching work of the candidate in the competition, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Borislava Petkova Kostova fully meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations for its application and the procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". I am convinced that with her teaching, teaching and research activities, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Kostova contributes to the resolution and enrichment of the theoretical and applied aspects of folklore, cultural studies and anthropology.

I strongly support the awarding of the academic position of "associate professor" to Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Borislava Petkova Kostova and I call on the other members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to join my positive assessment.

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Prepared the opinion: .....

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