

REVIEW

by Prof. DSc. Nikolay Hristov Chernokozhev

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position

"Professor"

at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

in: field of higher education 2. Humanities; professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature - Renaissance Literature)

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of 11.04.2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Theory of Literature at the Faculty of Philology, Assoc. dr Elena Slavova Getova participates as a candidate.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova

The set of materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova are in accordance with the *Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU* and include the documents required by law.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova has submitted 19 scientific papers in total.

The biographical data outline the scientific path as well as the professional growth of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova.

The title of the habilitation thesis is "Petko-Slaveikov's 19th Century Journalism. Paisii Hilendarski University Press. 2022. 305. (ISBN 978-619-202-744-5) declares a significant research effort and raises certain reader expectations. The author, for her part, approaches the issue in an original way.

For her, the main character - along with Petko Slaveykov - is time. (This, in turn, is the subject of precise observations in the text *Images of Time in Renaissance Poetry*.)

The research traces the naming of time - the concept of "century". It sketches the impulses (characteristic of 19th-century Europe, especially in its French image) for making sense of it captured by Slaveikov, and enters into the author's century in "Shutosh" newspaper, which can be thought of as a research site for representative dimensions of Balkan culture, as this newspaper lives in disparate linguistic spaces.

As is well known, the newspaper is a cultural instrument that creates and assembles communities. (As naming important processes, the word "assembling" was used and affirmed by Marin Drinov in his seminal article on Father Paisii in 1871.) Particularly interesting in this constructive scope is the placement of the newspaper, which only from its third issue onwards, declares itself to be a "sheet for joke and satire". Outlining a profile of the user (the reader), however, is not part of the research project. What is significant for the study is the discovery of the silhouette of Slaveikov himself in this newspaper, as well as his overall intellectual presence in the publication. The specifics of translation, the play with languages, and Slaveikov's position on Balkan (and Bulgarian) journalism are carefully traced here.

Particularly important in the being of the journalist and publicist Slaveikov are the personal attitudes towards Marko Balabanov and Karavelov, through which the complex communications between figures of this rank in their intimacies and oppositions are revealed.

Throughout the study, one can trace the tensions between the key rhetorical figure of nineteenth-century Bulgarian journalism, the oxymoron (184-185), and the extraordinary efforts to "focus" (229) the dominant ones of the era, imposed and affirmed attitudes towards the self and the world through "Petko-Slaveyko's journalistic activity," which "can (and, according to Elena Getova's study, should) be perceived as a unified and comprehensive text , a unified and coherent project for achieving nationhood in/through the language of the press" (186).

The notion of "wholeness" is developed from the vision of a united Europe ("And so at Waterloo, France won; Europe as victorious entered the wheel of the revolution of 1793.") to the reunion in the poem "Tatkovina" and the pamphlet "My Last Walk in Sofia" of previously manifested motifs and images.

Significant to the "assemblage" of Bulgaria is the delineation of its geographical contours - a journey through specific places, with the movement itself marginalized and the gaze fixed on the

cities and the time cast within them. Slaveikov's writing about Constantinople to a certain extent falls into an intriguing comparative mode with Orhan Pamuk's novel *Istanbul*, to which the text by Getova *Istanbul by Orhan Pamuk - The Western Gaze/View (2019)* is dedicated.

The study's summary makes clarifications typical of a conscientious researcher and directs the attentive reader to the visual essence of newspapers, without it being independently presented and analyzed.

* * * *

Among the studies with which Elena Getova participated in the competition, the texts devoted to *Under the Monastery Vine* are extremely interesting and strengthen the image of the links between French and Bulgarian literature. By examining Elin Pelin's remarkable book in different contexts, important aspects of the contactological problematic and of "cultural transfers" are unfolded and refined.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Getova's contribution to the research field of Renaissance literature can be seen in the innovative approach of reading issues seemingly standing outside the great narratives (according to their later ranking) of the era; in finding her point of view, and in the precise instrumentality of the research effort.

(In some cases, the range of used sources could be expanded.)

Assoc. Prof. Elena Getova is not only a committed and dedicated scholar and teacher, but she is also a meticulous organizer of scholarly forums and a wonderful team player.

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova meet all the requirements of the *Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria* (LADAB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADAB, and the relevant Regulations of the Paisii Hilendarski University.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD and the associate professorship.

The candidate's works contain original scientific contributions that have gained the academic community's recognition, as a representative part of them has been published in journals and scientific collections.

The high scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Getova is unquestionable. The results of her teaching and research activities testify to this.

After reading the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific contributions contained in them, I find it justified to give my positive assessment and recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for the election of Assoc. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature - Renaissance Literature)

30.07. 2025

Reviewer:

Prof. DSc Nikolay Hristov Chernokozhev