

ASSESSMENT

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevena Marinova Gavazova,

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on the materials submitted for the competition

for the academic position of **Professor**

at **Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

Field of Higher Education: 2. Humanities

Professional Field: 2.1. Philology (**Bulgarian Literature – Literature of the Bulgarian National Revival**)

In the call for applications for the academic position of Professor, announced in *Darzhaven Vestnik*, issue 31 of April 11, 2025, and on the official website of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory at the Faculty of Philology, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova** from the University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Philology, Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory participates as a candidate.

By Order № RD-22-1339/10.06.2025, upon proposal by the Departmental Council of the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory (Protocol № 184/17.02.2025), and on the basis of Art. 4(3) of the Act for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), Art. 2(8), Art. 57(2) in connection with Art. 62 of the Implementing Regulations of ADASRB, and Art. 79(2) of the Internal Regulations of PU, I have been appointed as a **member of the scientific jury** for the call for applications for the academic position of **Professor** at the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory at the Faculty of Philology at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The call for applications was published *Darzhaven Vestnik*, issue 31/11.04.2025, in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, professional field: 2.1. Philology (academic specialty: **Bulgarian Literature – Literature of the Bulgarian National Revival**), and on the university's website (<https://procedures.uni-plovdiv.bg/procedures.php>).

Only **one candidate** has submitted an application: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova, from the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory, Faculty of Philology, Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The materials, prepared in accordance with Art. 77(1) of the Internal Regulations of PU, were submitted to the scientific jury in a timely manner. All deadlines have been observed and there are no procedural violations. The publications submitted for this competition do not repeat those used in the procedures for obtaining the PhD degree or for the academic position of Associate Professor. The application meets the formal legal requirements for the academic position of Professor (Art. 76(1), IR of PU).

The candidate participates in the call for applications with a habilitation thesis on the topic: *The Petko-Slaveykov journalistic 19th century*. University Press Paisiy Hilendarski, 2022, 305 p. ISBN 978-619-202-744-5. The individual stages in the monographic study and the complementary “views” towards a conceptually shaped circle of events from the Period of National Revival are outlined through the selected 20 scientific articles published in the period 2016–2024 (over 250 pages in total) in specialized academic publications. Thus, the overall reading of Elena Getova’s scientific production gives an idea of the directions of her research searches, at the center of which is Revivalist journalism. But they also point to the emergence of literary criticism, and to the beginning of Bulgarian theatrical art, and to the identification models of the modern personality, the construction of new aesthetic values, etc. – all facts from the cultural manifestations of the Revivalist, which outline new spheres in his life and find a field for expression in his journalistic work, in the clash of positions and roles in the public sphere, in the post-liberation reflections of adopted ideas from a past era.

The thematic cores around which the **publications** are united are focused on specific research problems: the concepts of time and the views of the Revival intellectuals about “their” century (including as a means of self-identification), declared on the pages of the National Revival press, the poetic articulations of time with its temporal markers; the relations between artistic texts and journalism in the self-citation in the journalistic and poetic manifestations of Petko Slaveykov, in the diachronic reading of the phenomena of the Late Revival as the basis of the Post-liberation manifestations in the intertextual dialogue and even in the rituality of the anniversary for the affirmation of eternal values and significant personalities from the recent past. The distinction between a translation and an original work and the identification of translation practices during the National Revival Era outlines new types of creative act and the conscious expression of personal work in the intellectual world of the Revivalist Bulgarian, his

attitude towards the original work of art and the author – towards the text and towards himself. Humor in the Revivalist press aestheticizes new spaces of the national psyche and the Europeanizing Balkan Man. Real contexts of the dialogue between the dramatic text and its stage realization are sought. Interpretations in the Revivalist press on topical issues of the time are analyzed – the topics of a united Europe, the similarities and differences between *the East and the West*, the place of the writing subject and his world/fatherland in the picture of the whole, etc. Purposefully following the common thread that unites these fragments – the intellectual field of the Revivalist journal, the author does not limit herself only to the review of journalistic texts, but also encompasses artistic prose, poetry, i.e. the diverse manifestations of the writing intellectual both in the individual text and in the concept of the content of printed publications. Her overview extends beyond the realities of the Revival Era.

The utilized toolkit – not only from the field of literary history, but also scientific methods of literary criticism and comparative studies – allow the interpreted phenomena to be viewed in diachrony from their origin to their development in our post-liberation literature, in comparison with foreign authors, to be summarized from the position of newer critical receptions. Most of the articles included in the monograph are edited with a view to the overall concept of the habilitation work and supplemented with empirical information, on the basis of which new, contributing scientific generalizations have been made.

All publications deposited for the present procedure show many years of in-depth philological work in the scientific space of our Revival literature, which few people approach these days.

The main habilitation work – **the monograph** *Petko-Slaveykov's journalistic 19th century* – is structured in three conceptual cores, the internal organization of which illustrates the potential and rich creative world of the Revival intellectual Petko Slaveykov through his diverse appearances in the context of the public mission he consciously adopted as a “journalist”. The thematic differentiation of his journalistic activity is an approach to the analysis of his “public” individuality in comparison with the manifestations of other journalistic styles.

In the first chapter, the thinking about the *century*, perceived as *the fruit of the preceding and the flower of the following century* (Neofit Bozveli), sets the profile of the Revivalist as a public figure – politician – journalist: the awake conscience of the people in the era of the new integration into “Europe”. But not blind acceptance of the humanistic abstraction, but with the criticality inherent to the Bulgarian, the facts of the geopolitical scene of the European space

are assessed. It is these assessments that give the researcher reason to differentiate and define the manifestations of the concept of century in the journalism of P. R. Slaveykov, understood *as a single and complete text, as a single and consistent project for achieving national strategies in the language of the press* (p. 19).

The second chapter is dedicated to the newspaper “Shutosh” – its concept and functions are analyzed in detail. The theory of translation in journalism of the 19th century is summarized. Translation is also seen as a central zone between *us and Europe*, as a means of forming the thematic areas of contact between the European press and the emerging Bulgarian Revivalist tradition in journalism. The socio-cultural status of the Revivalist publisher, collaborator and/or editor is defined; the reader’s expectations from the humorous-satirical publication are highlighted. It is also appropriate to assess the contribution of Elena Getova’s textual discoveries – the indication of direct borrowings or elements of imitation of texts from established European humorous publications, which served as a model for writing Bulgarian newspapers in the Ottoman Empire.

In the cultural and historical context of the 1870s, the third chapter of the monograph analyzes in a synchronous plan the issue of the potential of the press to politically and ideologically sanction national shortcomings – not only in an anthropological aspect, but also in view of the personality models of the time. The work of the “newspaperman” is also expressed in this – to name them as a problem and to aestheticize them with the means of journalistic art, whose direct social-modeling role is considered a privilege of the Revival public figure. The multifaceted ideas about the path and means of inclusion in the “European” historical time form a public scene (and attitude) for dialogues at different levels and a clash between the literary and journalistic languages of the Revival. And the Bulgarian land becomes visible even *geographically* and *archaeologically* in the national program of the *researcher Slaveykov*.

Exceptional is Elena Getova’s ability – in the analysis of the Petko-Slaveykov historical (and aesthetic) time, *the fruit of the preceding and the flower of the following century* – to construct a coherent concept of the essence, functions and means of journalistic speech as a kind of metalanguage of the Bulgarian Revivalist culture, to measure through art the pace of the historical development of the young Bulgarian nation, to outline the trends in the future humanitarian modeling of the modern Bulgarian person and the complex role of the press in this process.

Given my long-standing observations on the overall scientific production of Elena Getova, taking into account the significance and the contributing nature of the habilitation work presented for this competition and respecting her dedication in teaching and administrative activities at the University of Plovdiv, I confidently give a **positive assessment** and recommend that the Scientific Jury **propose** to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology **to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavova Getova to take up the academic position of Professor** at the Paisiy Hilendarski University in the professional field 2.1. Philology, scientific specialty **Bulgarian Literature – Literature of the Bulgarian National Revival.**

14.07.2025 г.

Assessor:

Veliko Tarnovo

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevena Gavazova)