

R e v i e w

**by Ivo Georgiev Yanev PhD, Associate Professor at
the Faculty of Theology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"**

in: field of higher education 2. Humanities

professional field 2.4 Religion and Theology (New Testament)

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 96/11.11.2025, and on the website of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Theology of the Faculty of Philosophy and History, the candidate is Senior Assistant Professor Eva Krasteva Kovacheva PhD from the Department of Theology of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. General presentation of the received materials

By order No. RD-22-36 of 09.01.2026. of the rector of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at PU in the field of higher education field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4 Religion and Theology (New Testament), announced for the needs of the Department of Theology of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". At the first meeting, the scientific jury decided to assign me to prepare a review of the candidate's scientific production.

Only one candidate has submitted documents to participate in the announced competition: Senior Assistant Professor Eva Krasteva Kovacheva PhD from the

Department of Theology of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The set of materials presented by Senior Assistant Professor Eva Krasteva Kovacheva PhD on paper and in parallel on electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Sofia and the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and includes the following documents:

- Application for admission;
- European CV;
- Master's degree;
- Original German doctoral degree;
- Recognized Bulgarian doctoral degree;
- List of scientific works;
- List of citations;
- Minimum national requirements;
- Abstract of the competition materials;
- Self-assessment of the contributions;
- Declaration of originality;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Document of academic work/teaching activity;
- Document of scientific research activity.

The candidate Eva Kovacheva PhD has submitted a total of 58 scientific papers, of which 10 studies, 47 articles, 1 monograph. 58 scientific papers are accepted for review, which are outside the dissertation and the competition for chief assistant. The distribution of scientific papers by relevant rubrics, in the country and abroad, is as follows: 52 in the country and 6 abroad.

All presented publications are in the field of Religion and Theology.

2. Brief biographical data

Senior Assistant Professor Eva Kovacheva is a lecturer at the Department of Theology of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the Paisii Hilendarski University. She graduated from the Faculty of Theology of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2003 with a Bachelor’s degree in Theology. From 17.10.2003 to 15.07.2011 – she studied for a doctorate in Theology at the Philipps-Universität Marburg, Faculty of Theology, in the Department of History of Religions, Marburg (Hesse), Germany, where in 2011 she successfully defended her dissertation on the topic “Die Weisse Bruderschaft des Peter Danov - Entstehung, Geschichte und Lehre (The White Brotherhood of Peter Danov - Origin, History and Teachings)”.

Academic positions held in the Department of Theology of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University: in the period 2012-2013 - part-time assistant; 2013-2020 - assistant; from 2025 - until now - chief assistant.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

Evaluation of teaching and pedagogical activities

Dr. Kovacheva teaches in the disciplines: Introduction and Interpretation (in two parts) of the New Testament, Book "Acts of the Holy Apostles", Infidel

Confessions, Early Christianity 1st-4th centuries, The Teaching of the Church in the Epistles of St. Apostle Paul, The Kingdom of God in the Gospels - Images, Symbols, Metaphors, which are mostly specific to the announced competition.

Graduates: During her teaching practice, Mrs. Kovacheva had two graduates - one with a bachelor's degree - Tatarlieva, P. Following the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34). Discipleship according to the Gospel of Mark. Diploma thesis on the New Testament (bachelor's degree). Plovdiv, 2015; and one of the master's degrees - Tatarlieva, P. The Apostolic Gospel of Christ's Resurrection. Thesis on the New Testament (master's degree). Plovdiv, 2016.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific activity

Publications classified by type are: articles - 47 pieces; reports - 33 pieces, by importance - articles in publications with an impact factor - 1 piece, by place of publication - articles in refereed international journals - 1 piece, articles in national journals - 46 pieces; by language in which they were written - in English - 2 pieces; in Bulgarian - 42 pieces; in other languages/Russian - 3 pieces, by number of co-authors - independent - 47 pieces.

Contributions and citations.

I. In the scientific field of the Holy Scripture of the New Testament

The first studies and articles of Eva Kovacheva PhD in the field of Candle. Writing of the New Testament and concern some issues inherent in the curriculum, as well as the published lecture material available to date in the field of biblical studies in the Theological faculties and specialties in Bulgaria. This includes the following her studies and articles on the New Testament, inherent in the New Testament summaries in the disciplines taught by her: 3.411, 3.42, 3.44, 3.45, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, with which she makes an attempt to continue and build on what has been achieved by

biblical researchers to date and thereby to help students better absorb the teaching material. Of these, 7 articles belong to the discipline Introduction to the Holy Scripture of the New Testament – 3.41, 3.42, 3.44, 3.45, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 1 study to Interpretation of the Holy Scripture of the New Testament – 4:2. Here, the emphasis in the scientific research work shifts more to the Interpretation of the New Testament, in which area the largest part of the candidate's scientific production is concentrated to date – 36 studies and articles. The monograph, presented as the main habilitation work for the competition, also concerns for the most part the Interpretation of the Holy Scripture of the New Testament. The area of New Testament Interpretation includes the following publications: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.20, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29, 3.31, 3.33, 3.39, 3.45, 4.2, 5.4. A portion of these texts are devoted to the allegorical method of interpretation in the Holy Fathers of the Church. These are the studies and articles with numbers: 2.2, 2.4, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.8, 3.11, 3.12, 3.17, 3.18, 3.20, 3.21, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28. Since they most often examine in parallel verses and passages from the Holy Scripture of the Old Testament, which are interpreted in connection and meaning with verses from the New Testament, and with this the candidate contributes not only to the development of New Testament science, but also to the study of the texts of the Old Testament. Another direction in the scientific research work is that of the images, place and role of women in the books of the Holy Scripture of the New Testament, as well as the presentation of their activity and mission in the spread of Christianity during the period 1st-4th centuries. Dr. Kovacheva has 7 such publications in total: 2.3, 2.9, 3.32, 3.34, 3.37, 3.39, 3.45, of which 2 are studies – 2.3, 2.9. One part of Dr. Kovacheva's scientific works is dedicated to the New Testament pseudoepigraphic literature. In this direction are the following studies and articles – 2.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.9, 3.34, 3.43.

The contributions of E. Kovacheva's monograph presented as the main habilitation work consist in the fact that the thus defined topic of the definitions of "carnal", "soulful" and "spiritual" /σαρκικοί, ψυχικοί, πνευματικοί/ Christians, specific-

ly according to the Epistles of the Holy Apostles (the Synodal Epistles of the Holy Apostles James, Peter, John and Jude, and the Epistles of St. Paul), with its purpose, subject and tasks of research, as well as in the context in which it is set and considered - about the union of the soul with God, has not been examined in detail from a New Testament point of view so far. The topic of the study also has points of contact with moral theology, dogmatics, patrology and history of the Church. Unlike most New Testament studies in Bulgaria, which deal more with isagogical issues of the New Testament, according to her, her work also contains interpretations of parts of the New Testament to a large extent. Four of the five chapters in the work contain extensive exegetical parts, covering both interpretations of the Holy Fathers and of newer and contemporary scholars and researchers of the Holy Scripture.

The candidate also presents her production from other areas of theology – General History of the Orthodox Church and History of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Hagiology and History of Religions, which are an integral part of the direction of Religion and Theology.

I believe that the presented scientific publications are the result of the personal work of the candidate, however, in my opinion, the self-assessment of the contributions should be shortened and specified in order to stand out more clearly and categorically before the scientific public.

The presented citations of the candidate's scientific works are relevant to the scientific field of the competition, and the publications in which they are cited are representative scientific publications and demonstrate the candidate's recognition in terms of her scientific work.

4. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate

I positively assess the personal contribution of the candidate in the publications she has submitted, and I also believe that the formulated contributions and obtained results are her personal merit.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

In my opinion, the use of the third person singular in the monograph and some articles is an outdated way, but the candidate must judge its use for herself. Some of the articles are too short, and in my opinion they should be referred to, not as articles, but as scientific reports, of course, depending on what the standards of the University of Plovdiv are. It is understandable that Ms. Kovacheva's doctoral degree was acquired in Germany, but the great inclination towards German - more Catholic and less Protestant biblical theology is evident. In my opinion, she should focus her attention much more on the works of the Holy Fathers of the Orthodox Church, although we also find them in her scientific research.

6. Personal Impressions

Despite my limited contact with Kovacheva PhD, I have the impression of a correct, well-prepared lecturer, with a good attitude towards the scientific field of Bible. New Testament Scripture, and towards theology in general.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Eva Kovacheva PhD meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the corresponding Regulations of the PAISIY HILENDARSKY PU. The candidate in the competition has presented a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of the " PhD " and in the competition for Chief Assistant. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received national recognition. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented towards academic work. The sci-

entific and teaching qualifications of Eva Kovacheva PhD are compatible with her candidacy for habilitation. The results achieved by Dr. Eva Kovacheva in academic and research activities correspond to the minimum national requirements in connection with the Regulations of the University of Applied Sciences for the Implementation of the Law on the Promotion of Higher Education in the Republic of Bulgaria.

I do not participate in joint scientific projects and scientific publications with the candidate - Kovacheva PhD and I am not in a hypothesis of a conflict of interest according to our legislation.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition and in view of analyzing their significance and the scientific, applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the election of Senior Assistant Professor Eva Kovacheva PhD to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.4 Religion and Theology (New Testament).

18.02.2026

.....

Sofia

(Assoc. Prof. Ivo Yanev PhD)