REVIEW

by Alexander Lyubenov Gungov, Dr. Sc., Prof., Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," in the area Humanities professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Formal and Practical Logic)

In the competition for "associate professor" announced in the State Gazette, issue 96. of 11.11.2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and History, the only candidate is Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova from the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and History at Plovdiv University.

1. General presentation of the materials received

Subject:

By Order No. РД-22-37 of 09.01.2026 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii 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. Humanities, professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Formal and Practical Logic), announced for the needs of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and History.
Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova from the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and History of Plovdiv University

The set of materials submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova MinevaNikolova is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at PU and includes the following documents:

1. Application form addressed to the Rector in order to be permitted to take part in the competition
2. CV EU format
3. MA degree certificate and transcript
4. PhD degree certificate and transcript
5. Publication list
6. Publication photocopies
7. Filled out table demonstrating compliance with the Minimal National Requirements
8. Abstracts of the publication submitted for the participation in the competition
9. Self-evaluation of the contributions
10. Affidavit concerning the genuineness and authenticity of the submitted documents

11. Labor experience certificate

12. Teaching experience documents

The candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova, has published a total of 15 scientific works: 11 studies, 2 monographs, and 2 articles. Fifteen scientific works outside of the dissertation are accepted for review. The distribution of scientific papers by relevant categories in Bulgaria and abroad is as follows: 15 in Bulgaria.

2. Brief biographical information (about the candidate)

The candidate graduated from Paisii Hilendarski University in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. In 2011, she received a master's degree in the same field from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In 2015, she received a PhD in 2.3. Philosophy, also from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. Since February 2016, she has been a full-time assistant, and since 2019, a senior assistant in the Department of Philosophy at Paisii Hilendarski University.

3. General description of the candidate's activities

The candidate teaches seven courses in the bachelor's programs at Paisii Hilendarski University, two in master's programs, one in a doctoral program, and two each at the Center for Qualification at Paisii Hilendarski University and at the branch of Paisii Hilendarski University in Kardzhali. All courses require high teaching skills, which the candidate undoubtedly possesses and applies in practice. One of the monographs with which she participates in the competition—Ludwig Wittgenstein: Problematizing Philosophy. Praxeological Turn, Boundaries, Legitimation," Sofia,
Heterodoxia Foundation, 2021—is intended as a textbook for the courses the candidate teaches in Formal Logic, Philosophical Logic, Analytical Philosophy, Philosophy for the Humanities, etc. The other monograph submitted for the competition, like most of the studies and articles, is also intended for use in the candidate's teaching process.

The monograph *INNOVATIONS. Abduction, Induction, Transduction in the Logic of Practice* (Sofia: East-West Publishing House, 2025) is undoubtedly the result of many years of indepth work. It consists of a total of 293 pages—273 pages of main text and 20 pages of bibliography and contents in English, with the bibliography containing about 200 sources in Bulgarian, English, German, Spanish, and Russian. The structure of the monograph is divided into a preface, [theoretical—A. G.] introduction, three parts, numbered with digits but written in words, and a conclusion. Each part is organized into separate chapters, marked with Roman numerals, which in turn are divided into subchapters (with the exception of the third part), marked with Arabic numerals.

The theoretical introduction presents the research strategy, clearly outlines the theoretical framework, the main objective and the tasks set, and also introduces the reader to the background of the study. This provides a solid foundation for the entire study and ensures that the reader will be able to follow the author's ideas without difficulty.

The first part—Non-deductive conclusions: logical problematizations, legitimation, critiques—discusses in an original way the initial premises of the overall concept of abduction, as found in the legacy of Charles Peirce. The logical nature of this type of inference is emphasized, and it is pointed out that the most essential feature of abduction lies in its ability to provide a new perspective in the form of hypotheses about endogenous practical logic. Here, Mineva not only demonstrates a deep and detailed understanding of Peirce's theses, but also manages to weave them into the context of the American pragmatist's overall logical potential, as well as to examine and clarify them from the perspective of scientific discovery. The author skillfully correlates and distinguishes the concept of

abduction from that of induction, outlining with precise specificity the field of action and the peculiarities of each of these types of non-deductive inference. It is quite rightly pointed out that the specific difference of induction lies in its ability to expand the innovative horizon provided by abduction, as well as to confirm or refute it. This section also introduces the extremely productive concept of "abductive induction," which not only sheds additional light on the difference between the two types of inference, but also demonstrates the innovative power of combining them.

A convincing analysis of Peirce's classical concept of abduction, together with his ideas on induction, is followed by a review of this type of non-deductive inference in the works of Norwood Hanson. Mineva clarifies these contemporary attempts to reinterpret Peirce, focusing on the problematic moments that Hanson fails to overcome. Following John Kaag's re-examination of abduction by relating it to Kant's aesthetics, the author again quite reasonably insists that even with the intervention of imagination, there is no question of insight ex nihilo, but rather abduction relies on prior contextuality and does not lose its character as a logical conclusion.

Particularly interesting and promising is the concept of transduction presented in the third chapter of the first part. Here, an allusion is made to formal-logical translation as a conclusion in which the premises and the conclusion have the same level of generality. But in fact, Mineva proceeds from the understanding of transduction in the works of Vladimir Bibler, understood as "mutual reflection" in dialogue. She rethinks this view, arriving at the assertion of a "non-Kantian a priori synthesis" that opens up a new, or more precisely, a revolutionary new horizon in innovative practices. In this way, transduction is presented not so much as a separate type of non-deductive inference, such as abduction and induction, but as a characteristic of revolutionary innovative practices when viewed from their logical side.

The second part—Practical Logic of Innovation: Non-Deductive Inferences and Challenges to Analysis—seeks the significant philosophical foundations for the non-deductive inferences discussed in the first part. The substance and scope of Mineva's approach in accomplishing this task are truly impressive. She presents the debate between Cassirer and Heidegger in Davos in 1992 as a captivating picture, valuable from a theoretical point of view with conclusions about non-classical a priori synthesis and the non-formalizable residue. Here, it becomes clear how the problem of the universal validity of non-deductive practices is resolved through the introduction of the term "abductive quantum" as an a priori schematized model, as well as through the concept of the "transcendental third." The logical specificity of non-deductive conclusions is further clarified from the perspective of the "will to form," as well as through the distinction between "moment" and "time intervals," which draws attention to conclusions by analogy, but specifically with regard to the issue under discussion. The philosophical foundation achieved in the first two chapters of this part is refined in the third chapter, where pre-predicate contradictions are rethought and the relationship between anomaly and a priori synthesis is explored.

In the third part—Johannes Kepler: "The War with Mars" and His Theoretical Scope of Intention—the philosophical and logical propositions are approved and finally confirmed. Central place here is given to the concept of "theoretical scope of intention," developed in detail only in the third chapter. However, the full development of the arguments in the previous chapters leads precisely to the presentation of the significance of this concept. Thus the "theoretical scope of intention" makes possible the transition from Kepler's discovery of the elliptical orbit of Mars to the revision of the entire kinematics within the solar system from the perspective of dynamics, which is an obvious revolutionary transition with a transductive character in the endogenous logic of practice.

Regarding the conclusion of the monograph, I feel it is necessary to emphasize that it does not simply summarize the presentation, but accurately outlines the main achievements of this work, which I believe are its real contributions: they are related to the boundaries that have been opened up and the concepts that have been rethought, to the methodology applied and the theoretical results sought, as well as to the skilful experimental analysis of non-deductive conclusions in the practice of scientific discovery. It is also worth mentioning the prospects that the author outlines for future research in the field of the developed issues, which she is undoubtedly capable of carrying out, and I very much hope that this will find its place in her next monograph.

Last but not least, I would like to emphasize that the appendix to the monograph, which deals with exogenous theoretical logic and discusses two topics—"How the non-classical logic of the dialectical is possible" and "The dimensions of the non-classical logic of the dialectical and the problem of subjectivity"—conclude the monograph in a manner befitting both its place in a purely theoretical context and the presentation of a different perspective on the endogenous logic of the practical in its operations in the sphere of innovation.

The second monograph—*Ludwig Wittgenstein: Problematizing Philosophy. Praxeological Turn, Boundaries, Legitimacy* (Sofia: Heterodoxy Foundation, 2021)—contains 240 pages and is divided into a preface, introduction, two parts (including five chapters), conclusion, bibliography, as well as a summary and table of contents in English. The bibliography includes over 100 titles in Bulgarian, English, Russian, and French.

The book presents an erudite and coherent interpretation of the central ideas in Ludwig Wittgenstein's works in the context of his interaction with his contemporaries from the analytical school, and expands the field of interpretation of his legacy through "post-Wittgensteinian sensitivity" —a term chosen quite appropriately by Mineva. The focus of her interest in this work is the language games of legitimation, which she manages to examine through specific analytics, realizing her main idea, namely, a well-founded discussion of the problem of naming. The author not only presents a unique interpretation of the "Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus" and the "Philosophical Investigations" in terms of its depth and elegance, but also manages to make a meaningful transition between the two works and the two periods of Wittgenstein, following the "cardinal problem of philosophy" of the opposition between saying and showing by introducing indicators such as rules of language games, family resemblances, and grammatical observation.

Mineva finds significant arguments that allow her to question the Austrian philosopher's thesis that "philosophy is impossible as a theory that can sustain reflection on method and as a theory of the variability of language games in practice."[1] Such doubt stimulates her to move on to a positive program for presenting her own theses, allowing her to reach a series of essential conclusions. She believes that in the logic of ordinary language, it is necessary to establish referential rules for understanding the language games of legitimation, since such rules are related to the possibility of empowerment. The author also finds that the original potential of the term "language game," as understood by Wittgenstein himself, is productively expanded by looking at the method of grammatical observation, as well as by the meaning that "language game" has acquired in ethnomethodology. Mineva also establishes that the discrepancy between theory and practice according to Bourdieu could be understood as a paradigm for language games. In addition, she emphasizes that Lyotard's statements on the delegitimization of metanarratives make it easier for her

[1] :Martina Mineva, *Ludwig Wittgenstein: Problematizing Philosophy. Praxeological Turn, Boundaries, Legitimacy* (Sofia: Heterodoxy Foundation, 2021), p. 13.

to see the connection between language games, the boundaries of philosophy, and its legitimizing functions. Finally, the author makes a fundamental conclusion that "although not all language games of legitimation in the study are philosophical, they all turned out to be philosophical problems."[2]

The candidate has presented 15 citations of her scientific works, all of which are comprehensive, substantive, and positively evaluate the cited ideas. Five of the citations are in English publications, and the rest are in Bulgarian. The citing authors are from various scientific institutions in Bulgaria, which is clear evidence of the candidate's popularity outside of Paisii Hilendarski University, as well as the significance of her scientific achievements. All citations are from 2023 onwards and are related to the works submitted for the competition.

The 11 studies and 2 articles submitted for the competition are related to the philosophical themes and topics developed in the monographs. All of them convincingly demonstrate mature skills in working in shorter philosophical genres, precision and clarity of expression, consistent argumentation in defending the views presented, as well as the solid scientific value of the topics discussed. These publications reinforce the conviction created by the monographs of high academic professionalism at the national and international level, which will undoubtedly contribute to increasing the author's recognition among the relevant scientific circles, as well as to confirming the prestige of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

4. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

Undoubtedly, all contributions formulated in the monographs, studies, and articles, as well as the results obtained, are the personal merit of the candidate.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the works submitted for review, nor on the candidate's teaching activity. I recommend that the monograph "INNOVATIONS. Abduction, Induction, Transduction in the Logic of Practice" to be published in one of the languages recognized worldwide in the philosophical community, with Paisii Hilendarski University providing financial support for the publication, translation, and language editing of the future book.

6. Personal impressions

My personal impressions are related to my joint participation in a conference at Paisii Hilendarski University in 2023 and in a seminar in 2026, which confirmed the candidate's exceptionally high academic level.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB, and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of the doctoral degree and included in the competition for senior assistant professor—the submitted papers exceed the standard requirements for such a competition. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which have been published in journals and scientific collections in Bulgarian and English, published by internationally recognized academic publishers. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, some of which are directly

[2] Ibid., p. 15.

oriented towards teaching. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova are beyond doubt.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova in her teaching and research activities fully comply with the minimum national requirements adopted in connection with the Regulations of Plovdiv University for the application of the Higher Education Act.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted in the competition and analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied scientific contributions they contain, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a reportproposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History for the election of Assoc. Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova for the academic position of "associate professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education Humanities, professional direction 2.3. Philosophy (Formal and Practical Logic).

03.03. 2026

Reviewer:..
(signature)
Prof. Alexander Gungov, Dr. Sc.