

OPINION

by Dr. Kristiyan Rusev Enchev, Associate Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Formal and Practical Logic), announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 11.11.2025, and on the website of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Faculty of History and Philosophy, with Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova from the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" participating as a candidate.

General presentation of the procedure and the candidate. By order No. PD-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 2. Humanities, professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Formal and Practical Logic), announced for the needs of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of History and Philosophy.

For participation in the announced competition, documents have been submitted as the only candidate by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova, Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of History and Philosophy of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". The set of materials on paper submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova MinevaNikolova is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes the following documents:

1. Application form to the rector for admission to the competition;
2. Curriculum vitae in European format;
3. Diploma of higher education with acquired educational and qualification degree "Master"
4. Diploma of educational and scientific degree "Doctor";
5. -
6. List of scientific works;
7. Scientific works;
 - 7.1 -
 - 7.2 List of citations;
8. Certificate of compliance with the minimal national and additional faculty requirements;
9. Annotations of the materials under Art. 65 of the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University in Bulgarian and English;
10. Self-assessment of the contributions;
11. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
12. Certificate of work experience;
13. Documents for academic work;
14. Documents for scientific and research work;
15. – 16. -
17. Other documents
18. Set of documents on paper from item 1 to item 17 – 2 pieces;
19. Set of documents on electronic media from item 1 to item 17 – 2 pieces

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova. has applied for the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" a total of 15 scientific papers: 11 studies, 2 monographs and 2 articles and with her overall scientific and educational activity exceeds the minimum national requirements for "associate professor" in accordance with the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations on the Implementation of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University. 15 scientific papers are accepted for review, which are different from those applied in the competition for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". 3 scientific papers on the dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and 7 scientific papers applied in the competition for the academic position of "chief assistant" are not reviewed. In my opinion, I will focus mainly on the candidate's latest monograph "Grundbreakings. Abduction, Induction, Transduction in the Logic of Practice". Sofia: Iztok-Zapad, 2025.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

Martina Mineva's habilitation work represents a theoretically significant contribution to contemporary debates in philosophical logic and social theory, in particular to the issues of the logic of practices and the genesis of the new in scientific and social processes. The issues are situated in the field of non-classical logic of dialectical and non-classical transcendental logic and offer an original framework for the analysis of non-deductive inferences as endogenous praxiological achievements.

Logic beyond formalism. From the point of view of philosophical logic, the main contribution of the study consists in the radical shift of focus from logical form to logical practice. Abduction, induction and transduction are not considered as formal schemes of inference, but as processes of inferring, in which logical forms arise situationally, in response to anomalies and pre-predicate contradictions. This questions the classical identification of the logical with the formalizable and insists on an analysis of logic as a dynamic, historically and socially situated field. The critique of the pragmatist interpretation of abduction in Peirce is particularly significant. Mineva argues that abductive inference is not “weak” or logically uncommitted, but on the contrary – it requires an a priori synthesis that is not predetermined but is normative and generally valid within the framework of practice. Thus, logic is thought of not as a system of rules, but as an organon of practical thinking that is self-constituted in the process of inference.

I. Methodological Contributions: Reorganizing the Field of Practical Logic

The main methodological contribution consists in a radical reformulation of the status of nondeductive inferences. They are no longer thought of as “defective” in relation to deduction, but as autonomous logical practices, the rules of which are revealed through the analysis of real processes of scientific and practical knowledge.

1. Critical reinterpretation of Peirce’s abduction

The analysis of the late C. Peirce takes abduction outside the framework of pragmatism and positions it in practical logic as a dynamic process of meaning-making. Thus, the logical function of abduction is thought of not formally, but genetically and procedurally.

2. Change of methodological focus

The key is the move from transcendental logic (in its classical sense) to endogenous practical logic, where non-deductive inferences are understood as actual logical events, not as a priori schemes. This is a significant methodological shift that allows logic to think about its own historicity and productivity.

3. Development of an analytical apparatus

The introduction of a multidimensional practicological analysis allows non-deductive inferences to be thought of simultaneously as:

- formal structures,
- cognitive practices,
- historical events.

In this way, the reduction of logic to formalism is overcome.

4. Interdisciplinary potential

The methodological framework opens logic to economics, technologies, and social practices without dissolving it in them. This is an important contribution to the status of logic as a mediating science. The methodological contributions are systemic in nature: they do not add private techniques but reorganize the very understanding of logical rationality.

II. Conceptual and interpretive innovations: building a new vocabulary

Here the contributions are related to the introduction and refinement of key concepts through which the new field of analysis becomes possible.

1. “Abductive quantum”

This concept is central: it allows us to think of the non-deductive inference as a unit of novelty, and not simply as a transition between statements. Thus, logic receives a tool for analyzing the emergence of new knowledge.

2. “Theoretical swing”

The concept articulates the dynamics of thinking in innovative practices. It fixes a moment of tension between an old synthesis and a new logical configuration.

3. Anomaly as a productive logical moment

Anomalies are thought of not as defects, but as conditions for paradigm transformation, which is a strong interpretative innovation in logic.

4. Rethinking transduction

Transduction is interpreted as a characteristic of revolutionary practices, rather than as an independent type of inference. This allows for a finer distinction between logical functions and historical roles.

5. Homomorphism as a condition for objectivity

Objectivity is thought of not through universality, but through structural correspondence between practices — a strong philosophical move that connects logic with intersubjectivity. Conceptual contributions build a coherent theoretical network, not isolated definitions. They allow for a new type of analysis of scientific rationality.

III. New Demarcations and Critical Revisions: Philosophical Work “in Depth”

Here the contribution is clearly critical.

1. A New Classification of Non-Deductive Inferences

Through experimental demarcation, it is shown how different types of inferences extend or stabilize paradigms in different ways.

2. Epistemic Analogy

Analogy is analyzed as a key mechanism for transferring form between contexts, which rehabilitates it as a logically significant process.

3. Critical Readings of Classical Authors

The revisions of Peirce, Hanson, Harvey, and Deyanov are not simply historical-philosophical, but systematic, as they rearrange the boundaries between productive and unproductive thinking. These contributions demonstrate an ability to work critically with tradition without falling into eclecticism or anti-historicism.

IV. Applied contributions: legitimation and analysis of real practices

The applied contributions demonstrate that the developed theory does not remain abstract.

- The analysis of induction through language games shows how logical forms function as instruments of legitimation.
- The methodology for analyzing logical data makes it possible to empirically study practical logic.

Here we see the completion of the project: theory → method → application.

In their entirety, the contributions:

- have a clear internal logic;
- offer an original philosophical position in the field of practical logic;
- go beyond the descriptive level and perform conceptual work of a high order.

Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The candidate proposes an original theoretical framework for the logical analysis of nondeductive inferences in innovative practices, developing and applying non-classical transcendental and practical logic beyond Peircean pragmatism. The personal contribution consists of: 1) a refocusing from "inference" to the process of "inference", 2) the introduction of the notion of non-predetermined a priori synthesis as a key to abduction, 3) a critical rethinking of the abduction-induction-transduction relationship, and 4) an experimental application of this methodology to the analysis of the Kepler case.

V. Methodological questions and objections

1. On the status of "endogenous practical logic"

Critical question: In what sense is practical logic "endogenous", without leading to methodological relativism? If logical norms arise immanently in practices, how is 1) their normativity guaranteed; 2) the distinction between logical validity and sociocultural effectiveness?

There is an implicit tension between the rejection of transcendental apriorism and the need for a criterion for logical evaluation.

2. On the rejection of formalism

Critical question:

Does the critique of formalism not risk weakening the analytical rigor of logic?

Multidimensional praxiological analysis enriches the description of logical processes, but can make it difficult to clearly formalize the distinction between types of inferences.

Boundary problem: where does the line between logical analysis and the philosophy of practices lie?

VI. Conceptual questions and objections

1. On the concept of “abductive quantum”

Critical question: What is the philosophical advantage of the “abductive quantum” over more classical concepts such as “insight”, “hypothesis” or “heuristic leap”?

2. On the “theoretical swing”

Critical question: To what extent is the “theoretical swing” a logical category, and not a phenomenological description of innovative thinking?

3. On the anomaly as a productive moment

Critical question: Are all anomalies logically productive, or only those that retrospectively turn out to be “successful”?

Possible objection: risk of teleological interpretation – anomalies are legitimized as productive post factum, which can dilute the criterion of logical significance.

4. On transduction

Critical question: If transduction is not an independent type of inference, is its analytical specificity not lost?

Possible objection: Reduced to a characteristic of revolutionary practices, transduction can lose the status of a logical tool and become a historical-narrative category.

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SUMMARY EVALUATION

These critical questions **do not undermine the contributions** but rather **outline their philosophical stakes** and can be used as **a basis for the candidate's further work**, as well as they allow her to clearly articulate her own position vis-à-vis alternative approaches. An exceptionally insightful and conceptually productive habilitation thesis, which is a model for scholarly work concerning the logics of practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CANDIDATE'S FUTURE WORK

- To bring out more clearly the difference with respect to Peirce and Kant in a separate synthesizing aspect (or scheme) that would fix the contribution with respect to classical positions.
- To mark more clearly the status of transduction – with a final summary of why it functions as a characteristic of revolutionary practices, rather than as an independent conclusion.

These recommendations aim to make the already strong conceptual framework more accessible, without sacrificing its depth.

CONCLUSION

After acquaintance with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition and in view of analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and **with full conviction to recommend** to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History for the election of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Martina Stoilova Mineva-Nikolova to the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at the "Paisii Hilendarski" University in: field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Formal and Practical Logic).

06.02.2026

Prepared the opinion:
(*signature*)

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(*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kristiyan Enchev*)