

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

by Dr. Sc. **Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska**, professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski

Regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the appointment to the academic position of Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University in Plovdiv:

field of higher education 2. Humanities,  
Professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Literatures – Polish Literature)

In the competition for Professor announced in State Gazette, issue 96 from 11.11.2025, and on the website of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski for the needs of the Department of Slavic Studies at the Faculty of Philology, candidate is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Georgieva Kostadinova-Hamze from Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski.

### **1. General presentation of the received materials**

#### **Subject:**

By order No. RD-22-22-48 of January 9, 2026, of the rector of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition to fill the academic position of Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic literatures - Polish literature), announced for the needs of the Slavistics Department at the Faculty of Philology.

A single candidate submitted documents to participate in the announced competition:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Georgieva Kostadinova-Hamze from Paisii Hilendarski University

The set of paper-based materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Kostadinova-Hamze is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv and includes the following documents:

- The monograph "Dimensions of Existence in the Work of Olga Tokarczuk";
- Diplomas
- Scientific documents;
- Scientific publications;
- Official notes confirming participation in projects and conferences.

Candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Hamze has applied a total of 25 scientific publications: 1 scientific work (monograph), 1 study, and 4 articles on the work of O. Tokarczuk, as well as 8 studies and 11 articles on Polish literature, published in national and international peer-reviewed scientific journals.

### **Candidate's brief biographical data:**

In 1987, Dimitrina Hamze completed her higher education at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, majoring in Slavic Philology, with a specialization in Polish Studies. In the period 1999-2000, she worked as a Polish language instructor at New Bulgarian University. In 1995, she won a competition for an assistant position in Polish language at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. In 2011, she was enrolled as a free-standing doctoral student at the Slavic Studies Department. In 2016, she defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic: "The Language of the Comic", published the same year as a book. As of 2023, she is an associate professor of Polish at the Department of Slavic Studies. During the period 2016–2019 Dimitrina Hamze is the author, leader, and participant in numerous international and national scientific and educational projects. She has participated in over 100 scientific national and international forums.

### **2. General description of the applicant's activities**

In the announced competition for professor, Dimitrina Hamze participated with the monograph "Dimensions of Existence in the Work of Olga Tokarczuk". Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Press, 2026, 232 pp. ISBN 978-619-7768-55-8. The book is a thorough, conceptually sound work that attempts to address the specifics of the artistic world of one of the most influential figures of contemporary European literature – Olga Tokarczuk. As Hamze notes, there has been no comprehensive study on the poetics of Tokarczuk so far. Therefore, Hamze sets himself the ambitious task of analyzing her work through the prism of integrativeness as a fundamental ontological and artistic principle, thanks to which the various manifestations of human existence can be derived and analyzed. This principle actually stems from the specifics of Tokarczuk's texts, in which living and non-living nature, human and God, life and death, real and fantastical are in constant symbiosis.

The study consists of an introduction, five chapters, and a conclusion. The order of the chapters follows a precisely thought-out logic, from the theoretical foundations for the derivation

of integrativeness as a key to understanding Tokarczuk's artistic world to the manifestations of this integrativeness in specific works.

Dimitrina Hamze's work is distinguished by clearly formulated theses, a precise methodological framework, and a logical, well-argued presentation. In the individual chapters, she demonstrates a deep understanding not only of Tokarczuk's texts, but also of the critical literature on them. Her observations are also based on a solid theoretical foundation. From the first chapter on, Hamze's ability to think conceptually on her own and to build original analytical models is evident. In its individual parts, the study often goes beyond the boundaries of purely literary analysis, starting with the artistic texts of the Polish author, Hamze offers philosophical, anthropological, and psychological perspectives on the problem of being. Here I would like to emphasize that the author works extremely correctly with philosophical, psychological, and literary concepts, applying them adequately to the analysis of the works she discusses.

I would single out her observations on otherness and encountering the Other, on the different manifestations of love in Tokarczuk's texts, on the consequences of the father's (non)presence in the lives of certain heroines (second chapter), as well as on the diverse variations on the motif of travel (especially dreams as travel) and the transformations that occur in the course of this journey with and in the person (third chapter). Hamze's analysis of the function of music, which erases ethnic and religious boundaries and helps the individual discover and recognize the Other/Others that they carry within themselves, even in potential, in the space of the home and the material world (chapter four), is also extremely productive. I would also emphasize the analysis of natural-biological integration in Tokarczuk's texts in the fifth chapter, particularly the analytical emphasis on the images of mushrooms and trees, on individual metaphors, and on the personifications of elements of flora and fauna, through which Hamze succeeds in seeing the mutual intertwining (and merging) of the existences of people, animals, plants, natural elements, and is able to derive her thesis about the unique wholeness of the world in the work of the Polish writer.

#### **4. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution**

I find the key idea of Hamze on omniintegrality in the work of Olga Tokarczuk to be a valuable contribution, and in proving it, she manages to view reality in the texts of the Polish author in all its possible dimensions, incarnations, and transformations. Hamze's analytical

insights into the psyche of the characters as an integrative mechanism are also convincing. Her observations of the space, the world of objects, and the natural-biological symbolism in Tokarczuk's works also hold great potential for further research.

Overall, Dimitrina Hamze's monograph is an original study that sheds light on unexplored aspects of Tokarczuk's poetics.

The studies and articles that accompany the monograph also demonstrate Hamze's skill in analyzing Polish literature in depth and critically, and in constructing intriguing literary-historical narratives.

### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

In places, the fragmentation of the presentation is a bit heavy, and I think some of the fragments could be combined, especially in the second and fifth chapters. Some repetitions could be avoided, and technical errors in the text could be corrected. However, all this does not diminish the scientific value of Dimitrina Hamze's work.

### **6. Personal impressions**

I know Dimitrina Hamze's development as a lecturer and researcher, from assistant to associate professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski. She works well with Slavic students (especially Polish students).

The scientific production of the candidate, Associate Professor Dr. Dimitrina Georgieva Kostadinova-Hamze, meets the minimum national and additional faculty requirements for admission to the competition for the academic position of Professor.

In the context of the materials presented by the candidate, as well as what was said about the monograph and her overall activity as a lecturer and researcher, I am convinced that Associate Professor Dr. Dimitrina Hamze meets the requirements for obtaining the academic degree Professor, so I give my positive assessment of her candidacy.

### **CONCLUSION**

After reviewing the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition and in light of the analysis of their significance and the scientific, applied scientific, and practical contributions they contain, I find it justified to recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a

report proposing to the Faculty Council of the Philological Faculty that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Georgieva Kostadinova-Hamze be elected to the academic position of Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski in: field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Literatures – Polish Literature).

09.02.2026 г.

Plovdiv

Author of the opinion: .....

(signature)

Prof. Dr. Sc. Tatiana Ichevska  
(Academic degree, title, name, surname)