

REVIEW

by

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in connection with a competition for the academic position of "professor"

at the Plovdiv University " Paisius of Hilendar", in the field of higher education 2.
Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Literatures – Polish Literature),
announced in the State Newspaper, issue 96 of 11.11.2025 for the needs of the
Department of Slavic Studies at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Plovdiv

- Overall performance

The competition announced for the needs of the Department of Slavic Studies is attended by a single candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Georgieva Kostadinova-Hamze. She has submitted a list of documents in accordance with the requirements of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" and the minimum national requirements for holding the position of "professor", as well as documents for work experience, teaching activities, scientific activities, work with students, etc.

Dimitrina Hamze is an active teacher and scientist who, along with her research activities, also participates in numerous projects, both as a leader and as an expert and researcher - she has also participated in seven research projects, including international ones.

In the current procedure, she participates with the monograph - Hamze 2026: Hamze, D. Dimensions of existence in the work of Olga Tokarczuk. Plovdiv:

Publishing House of the University Paisius of Hilendar, 2026. ISBN 978-619-7768-55-8, as well as 26 other scientific articles – some of them before 2023, when she received her habilitation, but apparently not submitted in a previous procedure. Overall, Assoc. Prof. Hamze is an exceptionally writing person, and this is evident even from a cursory glance at her scientific output over the years.

2. Biographical notes and general description of the candidate's activities

Dimitrina Kostadinova-Hamze graduated in 1987 with a master's degree in Slavic Philology (Polish Studies) at Sofia University with a master's degree. In 2016, she defended her doctorate in *Linguistic Expression of the Comic (on material from the works of Witold Gombrowicz)* at the Paisius of Hilendar University, where she has been working since 1995 as a full-time lecturer in the Department of Slavic Studies. In 2023, she received her habilitation at the same university with the topic *Gender Culture in Proverbs (on material from Polish and Bulgarian paremiology)*. Here, the researcher's broad interests can be highlighted, which continue in her further career development. Dimitrina Hamze has been teaching at other universities and centers in the country, in addition to Plovdiv University, and has participated in exchange programs and various specializations abroad. Assoc. Prof. Kostadinova-Hamze is a translator of fiction from Polish and has received many awards for her scientific and translation work. She has also published poetry collections, which attests to her broad artistic activity.

Since 2023, she has been the head of the Department of Slavic Studies at Plovdiv University Paisius of Hilendar. She is an editor of the well-established scientific journal *Slavic Dialogues*, and has participated in various expert groups.

Assoc. Prof. Kostadinova-Hamze's educational activities are also very active. She works with students - Bulgarian and foreign, has publications and participation of her students in educational and cultural initiatives and summer trainings in Poland, which in itself shows commitment to the development of young staff at Plovdiv University and personal care for the student's life cycle. This shows both creative and administrative thought.

Assoc. Prof. Hamze establishes contacts for Plovdiv University with Polish universities and has participated in 21 conferences only in the period after her habilitation in 2023 to 2025, which is an impressive scientific activity.

The candidate has actively participated in the preparation of the curricula of bachelor's programs, as well as the master's degree program "Cultural and Historical Slavic Studies".

3. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific activities.

Assoc. Prof. Hamze has submitted for the competition authorship of 26 articles and studies published in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as citations, among which no unauthorized auto-citations are found. She exceeds the necessary points of the minimum national requirements for a professor.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hamze's monographic work, in a total volume of 232 pages, consists of an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography.

The first thing I must say is that this work combines the philosophical, psychological and literary principles, so that the reader expecting to see a classical literary analysis will be deceived in his expectations. It is not that Assoc. Prof. Hamze does not use terms, but they are terms that are distinguished by a general humanitarian characteristic, having been constructed and defended by the author herself.

A key concept for the monograph is the concept of integrativity, which for Assoc. Prof. Hamze is important not only for analyzing Olga Tokarczuk's work, but is a concept that is part of the way in which existence and its categorical representations are described. Assoc. Prof. Hamze sees integrativity as a process with a hierarchical structure. The principle thus agreed upon, adopted from the views in Olga Tokarczuk's books, is derived as a basis for reading the main existential and human elements in the work of the Polish writer, in the creative laboratory of which concepts such as Cosmos, subject, Time, Space, Life, Death, Dream, etc. were conceived.

Deprived of their functional value, the objects here become mirrors reflecting some dream pictures, to paraphrase Maurice Reims. They seem to acquire a soul, they are seen as dwellings where a person can take shelter, fleeing to what is desired. By arranging objects, we rearrange time, deprive it of extremity in Baudrillard's understanding, and in this sense, in the postmodern world, they are on the way to becoming an everyday mythology that sucks out the anxiety of time and death.

Just as Author, Reader, and Character are integrated in Tokarczuk's workshop, so the researcher, Assoc. Prof. Hamze, integrates the different readings and interpretations, in the pursuit of achieving an omniintegrativity, as she calls it.

Insofar as literature creates roles in which we identify, according to Assoc. Prof. Hamze, it is the reader who unites the overall construction of the text through his self-identification. In accordance with the ideas of Olga Tokarczuk, Assoc. Prof. Hamze's text presents us with the unresolved clash between myth and everyday life, between norm and deviation.

As I mentioned, the monograph itself does not hide its ambitions to open the boundaries of the literary to philosophical and psychological messages about the human face of existence and the permanent experience of man to realize himself in multiple ways, even though he has a single and sometimes incomplete possibility. This idea is also central in Tokarczuk's work, in which psychoanalysis, the generic principle and interest in identity and gender are connected. And here it is the place to say that to a large extent these are also the interests of Assoc. Prof. Hamze long before this monograph, interests expressed in her articles, for example, on V. Gombrowicz, but not only - over the years.

For Tokarczuk, as for Hamze, integrativity is that saving model, the "glue" that assembles the fragmented world, preserving it for the future.

As a researcher working at the border between several scientific fields, Assoc. Prof. Hamze also analyzes the speech constructions in Tokarczuk's text with a view to communicative situations.

In addition to the monograph *Dimensions of Existence in the Work of Olga Tokarczuk*, the candidate also participates in the competition with articles and studies, in which unusually many and diverse interests appear. I will comment only on some groups of them that are directly relevant to the competition.

In some of the articles, the focus of research interest is on male-female relations, homoeroticism, interest in gender and the image of the father in the light of myth and metaphor, as in articles such as *The transgression of the erotic as a Form destruction in the works of Witold Gombrowicz*. W: *Language World. Orbis Linguarum*. Vol. 11, book 1, 2013,77-85, (homoeroticism is seen as a protection of the subject from totalitarian tendencies for unification and the striving for understanding the world through human creative activity); Hamze,

Dimitrina. Implications of femininity in the ideological and aesthetic credo of Witold Gombrowicz. In: Collection of papers from the annual university scientific conference June 27-28, 2019 of the Vasil Levski National University, Vol. 1, 238-248. Veliko Tarnovo, 2019. ISBN 1314-1937; Hamze 2019: Hamze, D. The Functional Reserve of the Father in the Work of Bruno Schulz. Collection — Reports from the Annual University Scientific Conference. May 28 - 29, 2020.

In other articles and studies, the emphasis is on forms and techniques such as the grotesque and the comic – seen as overcoming the abyss between man and being; In a third group of articles, the interest in silence, the body, sleep and surreal reality stands out as the enlightened filling of the hiatuses of existence, the search for one's place and identity among the unknowable world (e.g. Surrealistyczne widdzenie rzeczywistości Brunona Schulza. W: Widzę, więc wiem. (rcd.) Ана Samardhić, Ninoslav Radaković. Роптаћ: U\M, 2020, 139—153. ISBN 978-3-232-3816-4.; Hamze 2021: Hamze, D. Dialogues with (not) my chick in the poetry of Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn DICKY. Collection - reports from the annual university scientific conference. May 27 – 28, 2021, 173–195. ISSN B 14-1937).

In other studies and articles, Assoc. Prof. Hamze focuses on phraseology and paremiology in an axiological aspect or on stereotypes reflected in proverbs and sayings (Hamze 2024: Hamze, D. Hidden polemics and difficult choices in a gender perspective (on phraseological material from the POLISH language). In: The International Conference Fifteenth Slavic Readings "Polemics and Choices", June 16-18, 2022, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, pp. 127-139. ISBN 978-619-7433-87-6; Hamze 2025: Hamze, D. A/Stéréotypie des relations /юрте-j&рте (dans lcs proverbes polonais et bulgares). In: *Language. Theory.*

Interpretations. Jubilee collection in honor of Prof. Dr. Stefana Dimitrova.
Sofia: Institute of Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin", 2025, 560-571. ISBN 978-619-90884-9-4 (print).

She also examined fairy tales in the work of Jan Brzechva, mythologizing in Slovacki, the relationship between culture and counterculture, language and literature. Considering the integrative approach that the researcher herself advocates, these studies sound connected and therefore ideas that illuminate in her analyses of purely literary works we see reflected in folklore genres, and philosophical and psychological motifs - brought out on a broader background in the interests in such concepts as culture, counterculture, imaginary and supernatural.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's contribution

The main interests of Assoc. Prof. Hamze over the years have been dynamic and broad, but in a special way intertwined in her research messages, which are original and authorial.

In what has been outlined so far, one sees an active colleague with her clearly outlined creative and scientific physiognomy and her own place in the scientific resource of Plovdiv University, a successful lecturer with a thought for future generations, a committed and responsible scientist.

Undoubtedly, the presented monograph is a contribution as a whole not only because of the collected and analyzed material, but also because of the filling in of the blank spots and the detailed coverage of a significant literary work in Bulgaria, such as the work of Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk.

I believe that everything necessary is present to conclude that everything stated so far gives me the right to fully support and to call on my colleagues on the jury to support the procedure for acquiring the academic position of professor in the professional field field of higher education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic Literatures – Polish Literature) of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitrina Kostadinova-Hamze.

1 February 2026

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