

OPINION

By: *Professor Dr Rossitsa Gradeva, American University in Bulgaria*

Regarding: The application of Dr Diana Stantcheva for the academic position of **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** according to the Bulgarian legislation at the American University in Bulgaria in Area of Higher Education 2. *Humanities* in Professional Field 2.1 *Philology*. The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette issue 73 dated 8 September 2017.

Candidate: *Dr Diana Stantcheva*

I present the evaluation below in my capacity of member of the Academic Jury for the procedure. This evaluation is based on the *Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act*, the Rules for its implementation, the internal AUBG rules, regulations, and policies, including the *Habilitation Procedure* and the advertisement on the AUBG website regarding the procedure.

Evaluation of the Candidate

I. Basis for Evaluation

This evaluation is based on the following documents submitted by the candidate:

CV, publications, citations, self-study for research and teaching, peer reviews, administrative and student evaluations.

II. Eligibility

The candidate Dr Diana Stantcheva is fully eligible for the position of Associate Professor according to *Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act*, the Rules for its implementation, the internal AUBG rules, regulations, and policies, including the *Habilitation Procedure* (See Enclosure 1):

1. Dr Stantcheva defended her PhD thesis on *Phraseological units in monolingual German dictionaries from Adelung to the present* at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany, with magna cum laude (2002). Understandably, she continues to work in the field of Phraseology and to develop new themes in it.



American University in Bulgaria

2. Dr Stantcheva's post PhD research is solid. She applies for the position with 17 published and one forthcoming studies which do not overlap with her thesis; five of them being co-authored. Published in three languages (German, English, and Bulgarian), they prove to her integration with both the national (Bulgarian) and international academia. All of them are published in peer-reviewed journals, collective books, conference proceedings; one of them is an encyclopedic entry. Apart from this, she has participated in more than 20 academic venues, and has received two prizes for translation of fiction.
3. Diana Stantcheva is a respected member of AUBG faculty. As of her appointment (2005) she has undergone three successful evaluations, has contributed substantially to the curriculum development at AUBG by developing a new Minor in Modern Languages and Cultures – German; has been involved in innovative teaching practices (Global Alliance Project "Globally Connected Courses") and in joint research projects with students; has been active in various capacities such as Co-chair and Discipline Coordinator for Modern Languages, Department of Arts, Languages, and Literature, member of FET; and enjoys standing high student evaluations.

III. Areas of Scholarly Interests of the Candidate. Evaluation of the Contributions of the Candidate.

1. Dr Stantcheva's publications fall within two major fields:
 - Research in linguistics with three main foci - Monolingual and bilingual lexicography, which include analysis of German monolingual dictionaries and bilingual German-Bulgarian dictionaries; history of lexicography; German phraseology, including semantic, morphological, syntactical, and diachronic analysis of phraseological units; idioms with a negative component, gender-specific semantics of idiom-external elements; proverbs; contrastive analysis of German and Bulgarian idioms; phraseological terminology; visualization of phrasemes; and corpus linguistics, comprising analyses of German and Bulgarian text corpus data, corpus-based lexical resources of German idioms, corpus-based studies of German idioms, as well as participated in the creation of one of the latter.



American University in Bulgaria

- teaching-related studies, more specifically to teaching German as a foreign language - teaching methodology; new technologies in teaching/learning German, global course connections, synchronous and asynchronous digital pedagogy; using text corpora of German within German as a foreign language courses; German for specific purposes; visualization of phrasemes in German as a foreign language classes) and EU terminology-German; EU language policy; terminology resources; Terminology for European and International Politics; Modern Germany – analysis of German and Bulgarian text corpus data and corpus-based lexical resources of German idioms.

Both fields are directly related to and have a bearing on Dr Stantcheva's teaching profile and focus.

Her contributions can be seen in all these spheres of scholarship. I want to stress in particular:

- the historical study of German and German-Bulgarian phraseology and phraseography;
- the innovative approaches to the methodology and didactics of teaching a foreign language;
- the study of Bulgarian lexicography, and, more specifically the German-Bulgarian dictionary of Geo Milev and its later publication.

The studies of Dr Stantcheva are well appreciated and referred to – 127 citations in Bulgarian and foreign publications (until 2017). She has also participated in seven international projects, and is member of three international and one Bulgarian professional associations.

2. All above-said, and the data included in Enclosure 2 allow me to conclude that there is full correspondence between the Candidate's areas of research and the specific requirements of the current procedure.

IV. Evaluation of the Candidate's teaching:

1. All the evaluations of Dr Stantcheva since her appointment at AUBG have been excellent in all three components: teaching, research and service to the institution. She teaches a range of courses that are oriented towards building skills for oral and written communication for students for whom German is a second, sometimes a third, foreign language; but also specialized ones – teaching EU terminology as well as Modern

Germany: Society, Politics, and Culture, and Intermediate German: Perspectives on German-speaking Cultures, which go beyond language-teaching per se.

The Candidate has contributed significantly to the expansion of the foreign language teaching at AUBG by being the driving force behind the constitution of the Language Minor and an active and enthusiastic participant in the “Globally Connected Courses” programme; by having brought on campus a number of lecturers – whether related to DAAD or speakers on political and cultural developments in Germany. She is also very active in the traditional evenings of foreign languages, has given a number of independent courses which provide further knowledge about German culture and language, and has several joint projects with students thus introducing them to academic scholarship as participants in the process. All this she is doing with enthusiasm and professionalism which are, no doubt, the main reasons for the consistently positive evaluations by her peers (FET), the administration, and – very important, by the students.

All courses Dr Stantcheva teaches are closely related to her professional specialization and hence her students profit from her expertise as a scholar.

2. All above-said, and the data included in Enclosure 2 allow me to conclude that there is full correspondence between the Candidate’s areas of teaching and the specific requirements of the current procedure.

V. Major critical notes and recommendations

I would recommend that she continues and expands her research on the history of Bulgarian lexicography

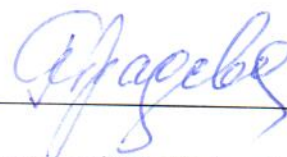
VI. Conclusion:

The publications provided by the Candidate as well as all materials related to her teaching and involvement with AUBG demonstrate that she satisfies all requirements of *Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act*, the Rules for its implementation, the internal AUBG rules, regulations, and policies, including the *Habilitation Procedure* and the advertisement on the AUBG website regarding this procedure. Dr Diana Stantcheva is a respected scholar and valued professor who combines her professional expertise with innovative approaches and enthusiasm in her work with the students inside and outside the classroom.

American University in Bulgaria

All this gives me grounds to recommend to the jury to confer upon Dr Diana Stantcheva the academic position of **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** (according to the Bulgarian legislation) at the American University in Bulgaria in Area of Higher Education 2. *Humanities* in Professional Field 2.1 *Philology*.

Signature and date:



By signing here I also declare that writing this review does not represent conflict of interest.

AUBG Academic Position Requirements – Associate Professor

X The Candidate has Ph.D;

X The Candidate has served five years as Assistant Professor at a recognized academic institution;

X The Candidate has published a monograph or publications of equal standing in specialized journals. These should not repeat publications based on which Ph. D. was granted;


X the Candidate has experience from recognized academic liberal arts institution(s);

X The Candidate has experience in student-centered teaching approach;

X The Candidate has undergone at least one successful evaluation in teaching, research and service at a recognized academic liberal arts institution, including positive student evaluations of teaching.

X The Candidate has experience in teaching in English at a higher education institution with instruction in English language.

Signature and date:



Additional Requirements

For Associate Professor Academic Position in Professional Field

2.1 Philology

Additional specifications: German as a foreign language, lexicology, phraseology, lexicography, terminology, language and gender.

Research:

The Candidate has conducted research in the following areas:

- X Phraseology;
- X Lexicography;
- X Terminology;
- X Corpus Linguistics;
- X Methodology of teaching German as a foreign language;
- X New forms of foreign language acquisition (synchronous and asynchronous digital pedagogy);
- X Language and gender.

Teaching:

The Candidate has teaching experience in the following areas:

- X German as a foreign language (oral and written communication);
- X German studies;
- X Political terminology, legal terminology, business terminology, and EU terminology – German; terminology resources;
- X Comparative grammar (German-English, German-Bulgarian, German-Russian);



American University in Bulgaria

X German lexicology;

X German phraseology;

X Lexicography (monolingual and bilingual dictionaries; monolingual German corpora of written texts and parallel corpora of written texts with German);

X Application of contemporary information and communication technologies in foreign language teaching and new forms of foreign language acquisition (synchronous and asynchronous digital pedagogy).

Signature and date: