

## Opinion Template

### 1. Information about the procedure

Habilitation procedure according to the Bulgarian legislation for an *interdisciplinary* academic position **Professor** at the American University in Bulgaria in the **2.Humanities** area of higher education, professional fields **2.2 History and Archaeology** and **2.3 Philosophy**. The procedure has been announced in the Bulgarian State Gazette, Issue 80, 24 September 2021.

The evaluation below 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 additional requirements for the procedure advertised on the AUBG website.

Candidate: **Dr. Diego Lucci**, American University in Bulgaria

Reviewer: Dr. Sean Homer Ph.D.

Professor of Film and Literature

Doctor of Philosophy, Comparative Literature

American University in Bulgaria

Department of Literature and Film

1 Georgi Izmirliiev Square

Blagoevgrad, 2700

Bulgaria

## **2. Eligibility for admission to the procedure**

### 2.1

The candidate Dr. Diego Lucci **is in compliance** the *Requirements for Full Professor Academic Position* as outlined in Enclosure 1 to this document as evidenced by the statement of the AUBG Habilitation Screening Committee and Dr. Lucci's habilitation dossier.

### 2.2

The candidate Dr. Diego Lucci **is in compliance** the *Additional Requirements for Full Professor Interdisciplinary Academic Position* as outlined in Enclosure 2 to this document as evidenced by the statement of the AUBG Habilitation Screening Committee and Dr. Lucci's habilitation dossier.

### 2.3

Dr. Diego Lucci's research results **are in compliance with** the aggregate number of points for both Associate Professor and Full Professor academic positions required by the MNIs set forth in the Bulgarian Law, as evidenced by the AUBG Verification Committee's statement and Dr. Lucci's habilitation dossier.

### **3. Evaluation of the Candidate**

#### 3.1

Professor Lucci's research centers on seventeenth and eighteenth English philosophy with a particular focus on political and religious thought. This interdisciplinary project draws on methods and concerns from the fields of both the history of philosophy and intellectual history. At the same time, Professor Lucci has established a reputation for expertise in Jewish related issues in early modern thought. Professor Lucci is author of three (3) monographs, five (5) edited books, 27 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, 11 book chapters, six (6) encyclopedia entries, five (5) review articles and 60 book reviews. This impressive body of work has established Professor Lucci as one of the leading scholars in the field of seventeenth and eighteenth English philosophy today. Indeed, his most recent monograph, *John Locke's Christianity* (CUP, 2021), is published by one of the leading academic publishers in the world and is set to become the definitive account of Locke's Christianity, as testified to by his research fellowships in Europe and North America, including at University College London, UK, Boston University, USA, and Hamburg University, Germany.

Professor Lucci's international standing and interdisciplinary research is reflected in his membership of 14 professional academic organizations including, in the US, the American Historical Association, the American Philosophical Association and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. In the UK he is a member of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the British Society for the History of Philosophy. Nationally he is a member of the Bulgarian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and internationally the International Society for Intellectual History and the John Locke Society. He is also on the editorial boards of a number of international journals including the *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, University of Bucharest (2021-Present); *Philosophy* (2019-Present); *Annals of the Department of Philosophy and Politics*, South-West University "Neofit Rilski" (2016-Present); *S&F: Scienza e Filosofia*, University of Naples (2012-Present); and *Crisi e conflitti* (2005-2009). Professor Lucci's research has been recognised both nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of the AUBG Faculty Research Award (2021) and Inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (2015).

Professor Lucci was a member of the Executive Committee of International Society for Intellectual History (2017-2018), when he chaired the organizing committee for the Society's annual conference held at AUBG, Blagoevgrad (2017). He has been on the organizing committees for nine (9) conferences, including the ISIH conference mentioned above, a conference on "Philosophy, Religion and Science in Seventeenth-Century England" at AUBG (2020) and the forthcoming John Locke Society Conference to be held at AUBG in 2022. Professor Lucci has further organized 11 conference panels on issues including The English

Enlightenment, Antitinitarianism, the Enlightenment and Judaism and Theories of Citizenship in Contemporary Philosophy. He also delivered 19 competitive conference presentations. He has participated in five (5) research projects and is currently a member of the "Jesuit Online Bibliography", an inter-university research project between European and US institutions. He is a regular expert reviewer for a range of international Journals including *Studi Lockiani*; *Intellectual History Review* and the *European Journal of Jewish Studies* as well as a manuscript reviewer for academic publishers including Palgrave Macmillan, Bloomsbury and Springer.

As well as establishing an international reputation for his research Professor Lucci is an integral and highly respected member of faculty within the American University of Bulgaria. He regularly teaches Freshman level classes in both philosophy (*Introduction to Philosophy*; *Ethics*) and history (*Rome and the Ancient World*; *Medieval Europe*; *Early Modern Europe*). He has also developed a wide range of Senior level elective courses in both disciplines of philosophy (*Modern and Contemporary Political Philosophy*; *Modern Philosophy and Film*; *Philosophy of Sex and Love*; *Philosophy and the Enlightenment*) and history (*Europe and the Others*; *Classical Antiquity*; *Ancient Greek and Roman History*; *Enlightenment*). Professor Lucci has supervised 6 Capstone projects and Senior Theses and 14 independent studies, the paper from one of these independent studies resulting in a first publication for the student Khafiz Kerimov in *Dialogue* the journal of Phi Sigma Tau (2013). Professor Lucci is consistently acknowledged, through student course evaluations, faculty evaluation and student enrolments, as one of the most exceptional teachers within AUBG. He is academically rigorous, as demonstrated in his grade point averages, and at the same time seeks new and innovative courses to teach non-philosophy students complex philosophical and ethical ideas, I will just single out his recent courses in *Modern Philosophy and Film* and *Philosophy of Sex and Love* as exemplary. Professor Lucci's excellence in teaching was acknowledged by his peers and AUBG administration in 2017 with him becoming one of the first recipients of the "Cosmina Tanasoiu Excellence in Teaching" award. The appreciation of the students was shown in 2016 with the student club More Honors Academy bestowing upon Professor Lucci a "Lifetime achievement Award". Professor Lucci has also taught at a number of other institutions in the US (Boston, Missouri) and Italy (Naples, Milan). While AUBG does not have a PhD program of its own, Professor Lucci has served on the supervisory committees of three (3) PhD students in Italy.

Administratively Professor Lucci plays a central role in the life of AUBG. He participates in all levels of administrative activity from participating in student recruitment, Chairing his department and being a member of Faculty and University committees. Professor Lucci annually visits Bulgarian high schools to talk with prospective students as well as giving mock lectures at AUBG open days. He participates in faculty

orientation by leading seminar discussions on ethical and academic matters, and he also mentors new faculty. He has acted as a Freshman student advisor as well as an advisor for the Major in History and Civilizations and the Minor in Philosophy. He regularly supervises student clubs and volunteers as a guest speaker at student events. Each year professor Lucci is invited to serve on a range of Senior Thesis evaluation committees across the university. He is also invited to serve on and Chair new Faculty search committees from both his own department and others. Most notable though is the leadership role Professor Lucci takes both within his own department and the university. He has been Chair of the Department of History and Civilizations (2010-2013) and Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Psychology (2018-Present). He has served Faculty Assembly Parliamentarian (2008-09; 2014-15; 2019-20) and Faculty Assembly Co-Chair (2009-10). He has chaired the FA Steering Committee (2009-10), the Academic Integrity and Appeals Council (2015-17), the Academic Affairs Committee (2017-20) as well as numerous ad hoc committees.



#### 4. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

#### 5. Conclusion and recommendation

Professor Lucci has made a major contribution to the study of Deism in late seventeenth and early eighteenth-century England, his articles on John Toland, Anthony Collins, Matthew Tindal and Thomas Chubb are widely cited. His co-authored work and articles on the central role of Jews in shaping Enlightenment political thought have been highly influential. Finally, he recently published Cambridge University Press study of John Locke looks set to become the definitive account of Locke's theology as can be gauged by the prestigious awards that the book has been nominated for.

As a member of the academic Jury, I give my positive evaluation *for* the applicant Professor Diego Lucci Ph.D. and *unequivocally recommend* that he be elected for the position **Professor** at the American University in Bulgaria in the **2.Humanities** area of higher education, professional fields **2.2 History and Archaeology** and **2.3 Philosophy**.

#### 6. Signature and date

Signature:.....*Sean Homer*.....

Date:.....7 January 2022.....

Requirements for Full Professor Academic Position

Delete as appropriate:

YES	The Candidate has a Ph.D.;
YES	The Candidate has held the position of Associate Professor for at least six years, or has at least six years of teaching experience, at recognized and accredited higher education institution(s)
YES	If internal to AUBG, the Candidate has received a positive final decision for promotion to Professor after evaluation according to the internal AUBG rules based on the US legislation as outlined in the Faculty Handbook
YES	The Candidate has published a monograph;
YES	If the Candidate has not held the position of Associate Professor acquired or recognized according to the Bulgarian legislation, they have published one more monograph.
YES	The Candidate has other original research, academic, or applied works and publications;
Correct	None of the publications presented for the current procedure repeat publications used for acquisition of the doctoral degree of the Candidate, or in a previous procedure for an academic position according to the Bulgarian legislation;
Correct	The Candidate has not been found responsible for plagiarism in their works under a statutory procedure;
YES	The Candidate has teaching experience from recognized and accredited higher education liberal arts institution(s);
YES	The Candidate has experience in student-centered teaching approach;
YES	The Candidate has at least two years of experience in teaching in English at a higher education institution with instruction in English language.
YES	The Candidate has passed at least one successful evaluation in teaching, research, and service at a recognized and accredited higher education liberal arts institution, including positive student evaluations of teaching.

Signature and date:

*Sean Homer*

7 January 2022

Additional Requirements

For Professor Interdisciplinary Academic Position  
in Professional Fields 2.2 History and Archaeology and 2.3 Philosophy

Additional specifications: Early modern philosophy and intellectual history, with a focus on England and/or the Anglophone world.

**Delete as appropriate:**

Research focus on:

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| YES | Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy, with a focus on England and/or the Anglophone world.                                   |
| YES | The intellectual history of the early modern period and the Age of Enlightenment, with a focus on England and/or the Anglophone world. |
| YES | English philosophical, political, and religious thought and its international impact.  |
| YES | Major Anglophone philosophers and intellectuals.   |

Teaching experience in:

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| YES | The history of philosophy, with a focus on the period since the early modern era.                             |
| YES | The history of moral and political theories, with a focus on the period since the early modern era.           |
| YES | The philosophy and intellectual history of the early modern period and the Age of Enlightenment.              |
| YES | Introductory as well as advanced level courses in European history, philosophy, ethics, and political theory. |

Signature and date:

*Sean Homer*

7 January 2022

Minimal National Indicators

Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities

Professional Fields 2.1 Philology, 2.2 History and Archaeology, 2.3 Philosophy, 2.4 Religion and Theology

Indicator Group	Indicator	Number of Points	Minimal Number of Points Required				
			Ph.D.	Dr. of Science	Senior Assistant	Associate Professor	Full Professor
A	1. Doctoral (Ph.D.) dissertation	50	50	50	50	50	50
B	2. Doctor of Science dissertation	100	-	100	-	-	-
C	3. <b>Habilitation work – monograph</b>	100	-	-	-	100	100
D	4. Published <b>monograph</b> that has not been presented as primary habilitation work	100	30	100	-	200	200
	5. Published <b>book</b> based on defended Ph.D. or Doctor of Science dissertation	75					
	6. <b>Articles and reports</b> published in academic editions that are <b>indexed</b> in world-renowned academic databases	30/n					
	7. <b>Articles and reports</b> published in non-indexed peer-reviewed editions or edited collective volumes	10/n					
	8. <b>Studies</b> published in academic editions that are <b>indexed</b> in world-renowned academic databases	45/n					
	9. <b>Studies</b> published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes	15/n					
	10. Published <b>chapter in a monograph</b> with multiple authors	20/n					
	11. Compiling of <b>dictionaries</b> (for 2.1 [Philology] only)	40/n					

Indicator Group	Indicator	Number of Points	Minimal Number of Points Required				
			Ph.D.	Dr. of Science	Senior Assistant	Associate Professor	Full Professor
E	12. Citations or reviews in academic editions, monographs or collective volumes <b>indexed</b> in world-renowned academic databases	15					
	13. Citations or reviews in [non-indexed] peer reviewed <b>monographs or collective volumes</b>	10	-	100	-	50	100
	14. Citations or reviews in non-indexed peer-reviewed <b>journals</b>	5					
F	15. Acquired Doctor of Science degree	40					
	16. <b>Supervision</b> of successfully defended doctoral students (n is the number of the co-supervisors of the respective doctoral student)	40/n					
	17. <b>Participation in a national</b> research or educational project	15					
	18. <b>Participation in an international</b> research or educational project	20					
	19. <b>Leadership of a national</b> research or educational project	30	-	-	-	-	100
	20. <b>Leadership of an international</b> research or educational project	40					
	21. Published university <b>textbook</b> or textbook that is used in the high school network	40/n					
22. Published university <b>learning guide</b> or learning guide used in the high school network	20/n						