

## **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: Emeritus Professor Michael Hunter, FBA, FSA, FRHistS, DPhil

Department of History, Classics and Archaeology,  
Birkbeck College, University of London,  
26 Russell Square,  
London, WC1B 5DG.

## **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

Diego Lucci's research interests lie primarily in the philosophy and intellectual history of the Age of Enlightenment, with a focus on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England. These include themes relating to the intellectual history of the early modern period more generally, particularly the history of Judaism and Trinitarianism.

#### 3.2

Diego Lucci has been making important contributions to scholarship ever since the time when he wrote his PhD at the University of Naples Federico II, which was submitted in 2004. After extensive further research, a heavily revised version of the thesis appeared as a valuable monograph, *Scripture and Deism*, published by Peter Lang of Bern in 2008. This painstakingly examined the views on the Biblical texts of such leading Deists as John Toland, Anthony Collins, Matthew Tindal and Thomas Chubb. It has since proved of great value to scholars in the field, as is revealed by the extensive citations of it in the work of leading scholars.

In 2005 Dr Lucci left Italy and since 2006 he has been a member of staff at the American University of Bulgaria, where his research career has flourished. He has produced numerous highly important articles and contributions to edited volumes, which are listed in full in his curriculum vitae. All of these give a very clear and lucid exposition of complex ideas, always making telling and appropriate use of primary sources while also doing proper justice to the secondary literature that exists.

These writings offer telling evaluations of a number of the principal English thinkers known as Deists. Among them I would single out his important studies of John Toland, which, more than previous studies of this author, have done justice to Toland's interest in Judaism and Islam (2017); his work on William Wollaston (2007; 2014), which has done much to restore this neglected but significant figure to prominence; and his work on the perplexing figure of Henry Dodwell the Younger (2013; 2014), whose thought Dr Lucci has considerably illuminated, even if neither he nor anyone else has been able to say the final word on this elusive figure. All these studies seem to me important in giving texture and complexity to our understanding of the Deist movement. Also worthy of note is the important article in *Intellectual History Review* in 2015, on which he collaborated with Jeffrey Wigelsworth, which makes a crucial distinction within the Deist movement between those – like Charles Blount, John Toland and Anthony Collins, whose thought was arguably implicitly verging on an atheistic position -- and a tradition of writers like William Wollaston, Matthew Tindal, Thomas Chubb and Thomas Morgan, whose emphasis on providence distanced them from the former group, although their stress on a rationally deduced religion of nature separated them no less from Anglican apologists of the day.

It is also important to note here a seminal volume for which Dr Lucci was jointly responsible along with two of the other leading scholars of Deism, Jeffrey Wiglesworth (joint author of the collaborative study just noted) and Wayne Hudson: this was entitled *Atheism and Deism Revalued:*

*Heterodox Religious Identities in Britain, 1650-1800*, and was published by Ashgate in 2014. The book brings together an important series of studies of free-thinking and its milieu by a number of leading scholars in the field, including Dr Lucci himself, and it represents a major landmark in its historiography.

An equally important strand in Dr Lucci's writing is represented by his interest in writings on Trinitarian topics at a somewhat earlier date. In particular, I would like to single out his penetrating analysis of the use of the anti-Nicene Fathers in Trinitarian writings in seventeenth-century England, which represented his contribution to the important conference on 'Priestcraft' held at the University of Cambridge in 2016. This showed that, although such thinkers as Ralph Cudworth and George Bull made use of the writings in question, this narrative ultimately proved ineffective and had to be abandoned in response to assaults largely from heterodox thinkers. It represents a further significant aspect of Dr Lucci's erudition.

It is also worth noting another important theme in his writing that goes back to his early days in Italy, namely his attention to the theme of Judaism in European thought in the eighteenth century. This has borne fruit not only in various articles but also in his second book, a volume composed in collaboration with Paolo Bernardini that was published by Academic Studies Press in Boston in 2012, in which four texts advocating the emancipation of the Jews are published with a commentary.

More recently, Dr Lucci has been devoting his attention above all to John Locke. He has produced a number of important articles on aspects of Locke's thought, which are cited in full in his curriculum vitae. These have been further developed into a monograph which in many ways represents the summation of his career so far: *John Locke's Christianity*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2021. This provides an unprecedentedly detailed account of John Locke's approach to Christian doctrine, placing such familiar works as his *The Reasonableness of Christianity, As Delivered in the Scriptures*, in a broader context. It painstakingly examines Locke's attitude towards the Bible and the heterodox opinions that were current in his period, also giving detailed consideration to his views on such topics as the soul and the afterlife, the Trinity and the issue of religious toleration and its limits. I do not myself profess to be a Locke scholar, but I know enough about Locke and his milieu to recognize the merits of this formidable book. I think that it is best for me here to quote the *doyen* of Locke scholars, Mark Goldie of the University of Cambridge, who has written of Dr Lucci's book: 'Now at last we have a comprehensive and authoritative reconstruction of Locke's theology. Embedded as deeply in the archive as in Locke's published works, Diego Lucci's book is a model of exposition and interpretation'. Since the book was only published less than a year ago, it is obviously too early for there to be published citations of it, but I have no doubt whatever that these will come in thick and fast over the next few years. It represents a highly effective summation to what has so far proved an illustrious career on the part of a prolific scholar from whom further significant work may be expected in due course.

3.3

I am impressed by the range of ancillary activities in which Dr Lucci has been involved, as outlined in his self-evaluation of his research. I would particularly like to comment on the verve and efficiency that he showed in organizing the conference of the International Society for Intellectual History at the AUB at Blagoevgrad in May 2017, devoted to the theme of 'The Rethinking of Religious Belief in the Making of Modernity'. I was at that time President of the International Society for Intellectual History, and greatly benefitted from Dr Lucci's enthusiasm for the conference and the care he took over its organization.

#### **4. Critical remarks and recommendations**

**I have no recommendations or questions.**

#### **5. Conclusion and recommendation**

I have no doubt of the quantity and quality of Dr Lucci's research, and I unequivocally recommend that he be appointed to the rank of Full Professor.

#### **6. Signature and date**

Signature:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'M. Lucci'.

Date: 25 November 2021

**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:



25 November 2021

**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:



25 November 2021

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						