

OPINION

Written by: Prof. Antonii Todorov Doctor of Political Science, New Bulgarian University.

Regarding: the application for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 3.3 “Political Science” at the American University in Bulgaria. The procedure was announced in State Gazette issue 70 dated 9 September 2016.

Candidate: Senior Assistant Emilia Zankina, Ph.D.

I present the following assessment in my capacity as a member of the Academic Jury, according to above mentioned habilitation procedure published by AUBG on 4th November 2016. This assessment is drawn up according to the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Rules for its implementation, and internal rules, policies and procedures of AUBG including the Habilitation procedure posted on AUBG’s website.

I. Basis for the assessment and overall characteristics of the publications and professional activities submitted for review according to the current procedure.

The candidate for this habilitation procedure has provided the full range of required documents: CV, attestations, reviews, a list of citations, a list with courses taught at AUBG, research self-assessment. For this procedure, the candidate has submitted 10 publications: 6 articles (two forthcoming) and 3 studies in co-authored monographs (one forthcoming). Of them, 2 articles and 1 study are individually authored, and the others are co-authored mainly with two colleagues.

I note that among the documents there is a list of publications for the period 2013-2016, including three forthcoming publications: two co-authored monographs and one article. I would evaluate them in the package for the procedure, but they have not been enclosed, even though they fully conform to the profile of the procedure and undoubtedly would contribute to the assessment of the merits of the candidate. These monographs, according to the report, are completed in March-August 2016. All of the publications presented for the procedure are in refereed academic journals in the field of political science. The enclosed statement indicates a total of 20 citations of

5 publications, indicated in Google Scholar, Research Gate, Scopus and Google Books. This is an excellent achievement for an author from Bulgaria.

The documents presented indicate more than 20 reports at academic conferences, moreover, this is a list of selected reports, which also evidences the active presence of Dr. Emilia Zankina in the academic life. Dr. Emilia Zankina is a member of six prestigious academic organizations.

II. Fulfilment of the requirements for appointment to the academic position

Dr. Emilia Zankina meets the requirements for the academic position at AUBG, also applicable at other universities in Bulgaria according to the regulations. She holds a PhD, and has held the academic position "Assistant Professor" for not less than five years. She has presented for the procedure publications in specialized journals equivalent to a monograph. Dr. Emilia Zankina has the necessary teaching experience in recognized institutions of higher education. As evident by the attached evaluations from AUBG, she is appreciated as a teacher, researcher and administrator (recently appointed as Provost of AUBG). In conclusion, Dr. Emilia Zankina undoubtedly has experience in teaching in English language in an English speaking institution of higher education.

I believe that she has fulfilled all the criteria required for the academic position according to the law and regulations of the university.

III. Area of scholarly interests and assessment of the contributions

Dr. Emilia Zankina has already established academic reputation in two rapidly developing fields of political science - research on populism and gender studies. Her achievements in the study of public administration reforms are relatively modest so far. From the presented documents and materials, it is clear that the research of the candidate fully complies with the requirements of the announced procedure.

I would describe briefly, as I see them, the following research contributions of Dr. Emilia Zankina based on the presented publications for the procedure:

1. Formulation, justification and explanation of the relationship between populism and personalism in the organization and operation of the new populist parties, which expands our understanding of the populist phenomenon.
2. Explanation of the mechanisms for constructing personal charisma by contemporary populist leaders and the explanation of its particular role in the establishment of populist parties.
3. Explanation of the mechanisms and the specifics of women career development in politics in a cultural environment which is permeated by machismo.

It is likely that other contributions could be formulated, but these, in my opinion, can be considered sufficient with regard to the criteria of the procedure.

IV. Assessment of the teaching of the candidate

The candidate for the procedure Dr. Emilia Zankina already has extensive teaching experience, as evidenced by the submitted documentation.

It is also evident that this experience has been gained in recognized institutions of higher education and is based on the student-centered approach. I also confirm that the teaching experience of the candidate fully complies with the announced procedure.

V. The following notes and recommendations could be addressed to the candidate:

I would like to make a note about the publications presented for the procedure that I did not see, the monographs that are planned and in print, in which Dr. Emilia Zankina participates. There is no doubt that these two publications, in addition to the ones presented for the procedure, contribute significantly to the overall positive impression of her research.

VI. Conclusion:

Having in mind the assessment of the achievements of Dr. Emilia Zankina as a researcher and teacher and also her administrative experience, I express a positive opinion about her election for the academic position "Associate Professor" at professional field 3.3. "Political Science".

January 20 2017

Signature: