

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:

Riccardo Pozzo, Ordinary Professor of the History of Philosophy, Dr.phil. (1988), Privatdozent (1995), Tor Vergata University of Rome

2. Eligibility for admission to the procedure

2.1. Please indicate if the candidate is in compliance with the *Requirements for Full Professor Academic Position* as outlined in [Enclosure 1](#) to this document.

I hereby state that Diego Lucci candidate is in compliance with the *Requirements for Full Professor Academic Position* for admission to a habilitation procedure for the academic rank of Full Professor without having a prior Bulgarian habilitation as an Associate Professor.

2.2. Please indicate if the candidate is in compliance with the *Additional Requirements* as outlined in [Enclosure 2](#) to this document.

I hereby state that Diego Lucci is in compliance with the *Additional Requirements* for admission to a habilitation procedure as announced by AUBG.

2.3 Please indicate if the research production of the candidate is in compliance with the *quantitative* requirements set forth in the *Minimal National Indicators* (MNIs) according to the Bulgarian law. The candidate's own description of the MNIs, and the *AUBG Verification Committee Statement* are a required part of the habilitation dossier, and could serve as reference. The Verification Committee Statement is also [published](#) on the AUBG website. The MNIs for the Humanities area are included in [Enclosure 3](#) to this document.

I hereby state that the following two statements are true:

- The candidate's research results correspond to, or exceed, the number of points for the academic position of Full Professor, as required by the Minimal National Indicators (MNIs) set forth in the Bulgarian Law;
- If the candidate has not held the (Bulgarian¹) position of Associate Professor, the candidate's research results correspond to, or exceed, the aggregate number of points for both Associate Professor and Full Professor academic positions, as required by the MNIs set forth in the Bulgarian Law.

¹ Acquired or recognized according to the Bulgarian legislation

3. Evaluation of the Candidate – Guidelines

- 3.1 Please include a short description of the scholarly interests and field of work of the candidate.
- 3.2 Please include a qualitative analytical evaluation of the candidate's scholarly output as evidenced by the publications and activities classified according to the **MNI's**. Focus on the **scholarly contributions** (theoretical and applied) of the author. The evaluation should pay special attention to the **monographs** but should also indicate contributions to the field by **other publications**, such as reports, articles, studies, book chapters, etc. The evaluation shall also indicate the **impact** of the candidate's works in the field as evidenced by their **citations**. Include **project participation** and **supervision of doctoral students**.
- 3.3 When analyzing works included in the MNIs, please indicate the **original, new contributions of the candidate's works**. According to the legal requirements, publications used for the MNIs should not repeat each other or works presented for a previous degree (such as the Ph.D. dissertation). The Bulgarian authorities will want to see this judgement in your narrative.
- 3.4 Please add a qualitative evaluation of the candidate's activities **outside of the scope of the MNI's**:
 - Research Related, for instance (but not limited to):
 - a. Membership in professional organizations in the area;
 - b. Practical implementation of scholarly research, inventions or other intellectual property products;
 - c. Leadership of research projects;
 - d. Establishing research team of professors;
 - e. Reviews by competent sources;
 - f. Established new theoretical field;
 - g. Established theoretical school;
 - h. Lectures at international universities, etc.
 - Teaching Related, for instance (but not limited to):
 - i. courses taught and extracurricular activities;
 - j. innovations in methods of teaching;
 - k. practical experiences for the students outside of the higher school;
 - l. joint work with students or doctoral students on research projects.
 - m. sharing of teaching experience, supervision and consultations for colleagues;
 - n. supervision of students or doctoral students, including doctoral students on teaching positions at a higher education institution or a research organization, etc.

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

Please include any questions, critical notes, or recommendations you have for the Candidate

5. Conclusion and recommendation

Please include:

- A conclusive statement summarizing the original contributions of the candidate to the field;
- A clear unequivocal recommendation "for" or "against" granting the academic rank.

6. Sign and date the review

Please include your review here

Recommended length: six to seven pages per candidate, not including the previous pages of this document, or the enclosures

Dear Sir or Madam:

With great pleasure, I have agreed to the request of the President of AUBG to participate in the habilitation review of Professor Diego Lucci's habilitation application as Full Professor in the Professional Fields "2.2 History and Archaeology" and "2.3 Philosophy," both of which are part of the Area of Higher Education "2. Humanities," in compliance with the Bulgarian Habilitation Law (Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act) as adopted by the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) through its Habilitation Procedure.

My acquaintance with Professor Lucci is long-standing, for it goes back to his post-doc assignment at the Boston University Padua Center. We met during the 2004 Spring Term in Padua at the meeting—*La memoria del male: Percorsi tra gli stermini del Novecento e il loro ricordo*—he organized together with Paolo Bernardini and Gadi Luzzatto Voghera (Padova: Cleup, 2006), in which I gave a paper on Ludwig Klages, Martin Heidegger and Robert Musil. I have fond memories of our lively discussions during those days. We remained in touch also when he left Padua to start work at AUBG in 2006. Since 2004, we have been working in close connection on issues related to intellectual history. In 2017, he invited me to Blagoevgrad to give a paper on Immanuel Kant at the International Society for Intellectual History meeting he organized—for the first time in Bulgaria—[*The Rethinking of Religious Belief in the Making of Modernity*](#) (30 May-1 June 2017).

Diego Lucci's **areas of research** are varied and, although connected to Early Modern History, they embrace different centuries. They are: English deism, Early Modern skepticism, History of Anglophilia, Natural law theories, Theories of religious toleration, Protestant theologies, History of anti-Trinitarianism, Biblical hermeneutics in the early modern period, Patristics in the early modern period, Christian Hebraism in the early modern period, and Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Gentile relations.

The research pursued by Professor Lucci is focused on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy and intellectual history. He has suggested a completely new way of interpreting the history of deism, namely from the distinction between an indeterminate and a determinate

approach to what is talked about. Through his careful analysis, Professor Lucci has made it clear that the issue of qualification comes before all employment of judging. The logical form of theoretical judgment ensures the unity of all critical endeavors by providing the structure for moral judgment. Interestingly, Diego Lucci argues that Locke's theory of personal identity is compatible with his concept of repentance. He explains Locke's views on the soul's death and the resurrection of dead people on Judgment Day, when, according to Locke, we will all be raised from death by divine miracle. Still, only the repentant faithful will be admitted to eternal bliss while the wicked will be annihilated. Locke's mortalism, along with his agnosticism on the ontological constitution of thinking substances or souls, played a role in his formulation of a non-substantial account of personal identity because it denied the temporal continuity of the soul between physical death and resurrection and it rejected the resurrection of the body. To prove that Locke's views on salvation are consistent with his theory of personal identity, Diego Lucci clarifies Locke's soteriology, which describes repentance and obedience, faith, and the conscientious study of Scripture as necessary to salvation.

His scholarly output includes **three monographs** that have appeared in important venues. His first monograph is a 256 pages strong reconstruction of eighteenth-century activities of British deists for biblical criticism in *Scripture and Deism* (Bern/New York/Oxford: Lang, 2008). His second monograph came out four years later as a four-hands work with Paolo Bernardini, *The Jews, Instructions for Use: Four Eighteenth-Century Projects for the Emancipation of European Jews* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2012), a significant work of 214 pages. The coronation of his scholarly output remains obviously the 244 pages strong monograph he has had accepted with the globally most prestigious on *John Locke's Christianity* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), which has been nominated for the 2022 Book Prize the Journal of the History of Philosophy. Cambridge University Press itself made the nomination. This prize is to be awarded in December 2022. Another nomination is more recent: the International John Bunyan Society has included Professor Lucci's Locke book among the nominations for the Richard L. Greaves Award, which will be awarded in July 2022. It is important to note, first, that if it is evident that in the three monographs Professor Lucci takes up the results of some papers he had previously published separately in other venues, it is also evident that these results have underwent a significant elaboration before finding their place in the monographs. Second, a comparison of form and content of Professor Lucci's doctoral dissertation and first monograph—which I have carried out with utmost care—shows that the latter is not simply the translation into English of the

Italian text of the former. It is instead a fully new outcome, whose elaboration has taken full four years of work.

Regarding his **papers**, one notes a substantial continuity of successful submissions in important venues within the impressive list of twenty-seven refereed articles. One might pick out the following six items: “Reconciling Locke’s Consciousness-Based Theory of Personal Identity and His Soteriology,” **Locke Studies**, 20 (2020), 1-39 online first; “‘God does not act arbitrarily, or interpose unnecessarily’: Providential Deism and the Denial of Miracles in Wollaston, Tindal, Chubb, and Morgan,” **Intellectual History Review**, 25 (2015), #2, 167-189 (with Jeffrey R. Wigelsworth); “An Eighteenth-Century Skeptical Attack on Rational Theology and Positive Religion: ‘Christianity Not Founded on Argument’ by Henry Dodwell the Younger,” **Intellectual History Review**, 23 (2013), #4, 453-478; “Discussing Deism: An Attempt to Resolve a Conflict of Interpretations,” **Nuova Rivista Storica**, 94 (2010), #1, 157-170; and “Judaism and Natural Religion in the Philosophy of William Wollaston,” **British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies**, 30 (2007), #3, 363-387.

The number and quality of Professor Lucci’s publication is indeed quite high, which testifies of an **impact** that has been evidenced by the **citations** organized in accordance with the MNIs (1070 points). On Google Scholar, he has a profile with no less than 171 hits. However, as Andrea Bonaccorsi has explained, to date it still holds that “we lack a full-scale theory of the epistemic practices of scholars in SSH...research quality criteria *do* exist in the practice of scientific communities in SSH, but they require a long process of conversation and elicitation to be formulated in linguistic terms, made reflexive and explicit and put in the public space” (*The Evaluation of Research in Social Sciences and the Humanities: Lessons from the Italian Experience*. Cham: Springer Nature, 2018, p. viii).

Summing up, Diego Lucci’s research output is impressive. To be noted, he has written in two languages, which accounts for a substantial international impact. He has acquired a solid international reputation in his field. The fact is that Diego Lucci’s books and articles on British deism have triggered worldwide a reassessment of the role played by British deists as an exquisitely systematic endeavor. Regarding the **original, new contributions of the candidate’s works**, Diego Lucci has courageously challenged many reductive widely-held views of separation between philosophy and religion in eighteenth-century studies. Going forth on the path traced by Firpo, Israel, and Veltri, Diego Lucci has shown that British philosophy has a profound impact on shaping our understanding of religious freedom. However, Diego Lucci’s research goes well

beyond religious issues. There is no question that in these lines of research Diego Lucci has provided ground-breaking contributions to current philosophical debates.

In a nutshell, Diego Lucci counts among the leading references worldwide. One can hardly find a more innovative protagonist of contemporary discussions in intercultural philosophy. He will do well in pursuing the mission of AUBG to engage in international exchanges and collaborate with qualified representatives of the worldwide philosophical community towards a common effort of thought and action.

As regards a qualitative evaluation of the candidate's activities **outside of the scope of the MNI's**, the impression of an overwhelming activity that has brought important recognition, such as in 2021: AUBG Faculty Research Award; in 2017: "Cosmina Tanasoiu" Excellence in Teaching Award, 1st edition, American University in Bulgaria; in 2016: Lifetime Achievement Award, More Honors Academy (student organization), American University in Bulgaria; in 2015: Induction as Fellow, Royal Historical Society; in 2008: Induction as Member, Phi Beta Delta Honor Society; and in 2004: Honourable Mention, "Magna Charta Prize," Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum.

The list of the **grants and fellowships** secured by Diego Lucci is also testimony of an outstanding ability to raise funds: in 2021: Senior Research Fellowship (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation together with Research Fellowships for Experienced Scholars), Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Hamburg (March-July); in 2018: Senior Research Fellowship (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Research Fellowships for Experienced Scholars), Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Hamburg (February-July); in 2017: Scholarship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Bucharest (March); in 2015: Scholarship, Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Hamburg (November); in 2014: Visiting Fellowship, Institute of Historical Research-The National Centre for History, School of Advanced Study, University of London (March-May); 2014: Scholarship, Gladstone's Library, Hawarden, Wales, UK (February); in 2009: Research Fellowship, Department of History and Philosophy of Law, University of Insubria (August-November); in 2005: Grant to do research at the State Central Archive in Prague, Center for Italian and European Studies, Boston University (June); and finally in 2004: Visiting Scholar, UCL Main Library, University College London (June-August) together with the Primo Levi Research Fellowship, Center for Italian and European Studies and Elie Wiesel, Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University (January-June).

As regards Diego Lucci's **membership in professional organizations** in the area, one is again in front of an overwhelming set of activities such as: in 2021-22: Chair, Organizing Committee, 2022 Conference of the John Locke Society; in 2021-present: Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Early Modern Studies, published by Zeta Books and the Research Centre for the Foundations of Modern Thought at the University of Bucharest; in 2021-present: Member, Editorial Board, Book series "Research Perspectives in Early Modern Cultures of the Younger Europe," Brill (Leiden); in 2021-present: Member, Scientific Committee, Book series "Studi Lockiani," ETS (Pisa); in 2020-present: Associate Editor, Studi Lockiani. Ricerche sull'età moderna, journal published by ETS; in 2019-present: Member, Scientific Committee, Book series "Ideas beyond Borders: Studies in Transnational Intellectual History," Routledge (London and New York); in 2019-present: Member, Editorial Board, Philosophy, journal published by Az-buki; in 2017-present: Member, Council of the PhD Program in Human Sciences, University of Chieti and Pescara "Gabriele D'Annunzio," Department of Philosophy and Education; in 2017-2018: Member, Executive Committee, International Society for Intellectual History (ex-officio, as convener of the 2017 ISIH Conference); in 2016-present: Member, Scientific Committee, Annals of the Department of Philosophy and Politics, journal published by the Department of Philosophy and Politics of the South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Bulgaria; in 2016-17: Chair, Organizing Committee, 2017 Conference of the International Society for Intellectual History; in 2015-present: Member, Scientific Committee, book series "Parva Historica," Mimesis Edizioni (Milan and Udine); in 2012-present: Member, International Advisory Board, S&F-Scienza e Filosofia, online journal published by the Department of Human Sciences of the University of Naples Federico II; in 2009-present: Member, Scientific Committee, Permanent Seminar in Ethics, University of Naples Federico II, Department of Social Sciences; in 2005-2009: Member, Editorial Board, Crisi e conflitti, online journal; and in 2001-2003: Co-Director, Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Europei, Giugliano in Campania.

Finally, the stature of Professor Lucci's achievements is easy to see—the greatest being his reputation on deism-related intellectual history and philosophy issues. It is no wonder that he obtained the recognition of being invited to lecture at various renowned institutions, including, among others, Boston College, the College of William & Mary, the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, the University of Hamburg, the University of Oxford, Queen's University Belfast, and the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

His **teaching record** is strong, thanks to his extensive background in the Humanities, which enables him to teach courses on different subjects and beyond his research interests. I had the

chance to hear him in class, and I found him most effective. The student evaluation that is included in the dossier is quite outspoken. I never had the chance to hear him at conferences, but from what I read, especially from his special lecture at Blagoevgrad, I have found him most effective.

Professor Lucci is undoubtedly able to speak the language of his community. My **critical remarks** go toward **questioning** his prudence in staying within the boundaries accepted by his community. For instance, on top of a sure command of the literature, he delves into the full history of the development of deism, always in function of closing a systematic argument. The point I am trying to make is that he ought to try to be more daring in the future. For instance, in the **British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies** article, he considered the notion of *Natural Religion*. He might have profited from a thorough multilingual *begriffsgeschichtliche* investigation by using the new tools introduced by Franco Moretti (*Distant Reading*, Routledge 2013), of which he is capable. On the whole, my impression is that Professor Lucci is very well equipped to make fruitful use of textual corpora such as those currently offered by CLARIN ERIC, the European Research Infrastructure for Common Language analysis, too bad, though, he has not yet tried to stir the waters of the discipline, which seem today a bit quiet.

In **conclusion**, based on the reasons outlined above, I am firmly convinced of the capability of Professor Lucci of providing a substantial contribution to the activities of AUBG in the years to come, which are especially crucial because they precede the XXV World Congress of Philosophy of July 2024 in Rome, a congress that will implement the paradigm change from a dialogue of cultures to a dialogically born culture, which Tu Weiming asked for in the magnificent Wang Yangming Lecture he gave on 18 August 2018 at the XXIV World Congress of Philosophy in Beijing.

Hence, my recommendation is very strong in favor of granting Professor Lucci the Full Professor academic position.

Rome, 10 December 2021



Riccardo Pozzo

Chair of the History of Philosophy, Tor Vergata University of Rome
Vice-President of the International Institute of Philosophy
Ordinary Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

2021 Requirements for Full Professor Academic Position

- The candidate has a Ph.D.;
- 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);
- The candidate has published a monograph;
- 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;
- The candidate has other original research, academic, or applied works and publications;
- None of the publications presented for the current procedure repeat publications used for the acquisition of the doctoral degree of the candidate, or in a previous procedure for an academic position according to the Bulgarian legislation;
- The candidate has not been found responsible for plagiarism in their works under a statutory procedure;
- The candidate has teaching experience from recognized and accredited higher education liberal arts institution(s);
- The candidate has experience in student-centered teaching approach;
- The candidate has at least two years of experience in teaching in English at a higher education institution with instruction in English language;
- 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;
- For a candidate 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;

Signature and date:
Rome, 10 December 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.

Research focus on:

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

Teaching experience in:

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

Signature and date:
Rome, 10 December 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. Habilitation work – monograph	100	-	-	-	100	100
D	4. Published monograph that has not been presented as primary habilitation work	100	30	100	-	200	200
	5. Published book based on defended Ph.D. or Doctor of Science dissertation	75					
	6. Articles and reports published in academic editions that are indexed in world-renowned academic databases	30/n					
	7. Articles and reports published in non-indexed peer-reviewed editions or edited collective volumes	10/n					
	8. Studies published in academic editions that are indexed in world-renowned academic databases	45/n					
	9. Studies published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes	15/n					
	10. Published chapter in a monograph with multiple authors	20/n					
	11. Compiling of dictionaries (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 indexed in world-renowned academic databases	15					
	13. Citations or reviews in [non-indexed] peer reviewed monographs or collective volumes	10	-	100	-	50	100
	14. Citations or reviews in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals	5					
F	15. Acquired Doctor of Science degree	40					
	16. Supervision of successfully defended doctoral students (n is the number of the co-supervisors of the respective doctoral student)	40/n					
	17. Participation in a national research or educational project	15					
	18. Participation in an international research or educational project	20					
	19. Leadership of a national research or educational project	30	-	-	-	-	100
	20. Leadership of an international research or educational project	40					
	21. Published university textbook or textbook that is used in the high school network	40/n					
22. Published university learning guide or learning guide used in the high school network	20/n						