

OPINION

of

Prof. Margarita Nikolova Karamihova, Dr. Habill.

member of the scientific jury for the

competition of the Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" for the academic position

“Associate Professor”:

Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences.

Professional direction: 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences. Scientific specialty:

Ethnography - Bulgarian ethnology

It was announced by the "History and Archaeology" department at the Faculty of Humanities of the "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, in which the necessary horarium is provided. The announcement was published in SG No. 37 of 17.05.2022.

I. COMPETITION DETAILS

The applicant has provided a Certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, Para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is correctly registered in the Register of Academic Positions and Dissertations of NACID. In accordance with the application procedure, a package of documents certifying its scientific development, including relevant scientific publications, has been provided. On the basis of the submitted documents, there is every reason to conclude that the procedure for announcing and conducting the competition was carried out in full compliance with the Law, the Regulations for its application, as well as with the internal Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski ". The given further course of the procedure fully meets the requirements of the specified normative acts.

II. DATA ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Only one candidate took part in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" – Assistant Professor Ivelina Avramova Eftimova, PhD, member of the "History and Archaeology" department. The candidate is a graduate of Shumen University and all her academic development is related to it.

According to the information provided, the candidate participated in one international, three national and nine university projects as a team member. She provided information on certificates acquired over time, incl. for proficiency in Turkish (Beginner A1) and English (Intermediate Level).

The candidate is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Shumen branch and the international academic network InASEA (International Association for Southeast European Anthropology).

The candidate is teaching 7 disciplines and a summer student practice at Bachelor degree and 3 disciplines at Master programs. She has successfully supervised 6 diploma theses.

III. DESCRIPTION OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

The total number of publications presented for the competition is 23. One publication is a monographic work published in Bulgarian. The candidate indicated that all the articles and reports with which she participated in the competition were published in peer-reviewed journals, although some of them were paper collections resulting from academic forums. Two articles were published in co-authorship, for which separation protocols were correctly applied. One article was published in Turkish (co-authored) and three authored articles were in English. The publications cover a wide field of research – from traditional crafts, through borders and borderlands, migrations and mobility to gender and age studies. The candidate indicates 12 citations from Bulgarian and foreign scientists.

IV. SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The main (habilitation) thesis is "Ethnological aspects of old age and aging in Bulgarian society (from tradition to modernity)". Its aim is to present the image of "ideal" old age, or the ideal of successful aging, in the transition from traditional to modern society. The value of the work is in the empirical ethnological material collected from 2016 to 2020, which contains over 90 interviews. The introduction into scientific circulation of the materials related to pensioners' clubs is beneficial.

I have provided my specific notes to the candidate. Here I will only emphasize that the analysis of the empirical materials would have gained a lot if Evelina Eftimova had benefited from the achievements of Historical Demography and had worked out the theories of Memory and

Remembrance, and of the Invented Tradition. The thesis that those born in the 40s and 50s of the 20th century were brought up by parents who were carriers of traditional norms and values should also be reconsidered (p. 7). Thus, the overall picture of the dynamics of the cultural response to old age and aging will be much more correct.

V. CONCLUSION

In summary of what has been said so far:

- The scientometric data of the candidate meet the requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its regulations;
- the candidate has significant teaching experience;
- the candidate's scientific output has a contributing character;
- her scientific researches are directly related to their application in the educational system;
- the directions of the candidate's research interests correspond to the plans of the University and the planned lecture courses for the Associate Professor, who will be selected under this competition;
- the research fields developed by the candidate and the competences possessed by her would provide young people with the opportunity to accumulate both theoretical knowledge, consistent with the modern development of science, and in practical terms, with a view to their future realization.

All this gives me reason to propose Assistant Professor Dr. Ivelina Eftimova to be selected as Associate Professor at "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" Shumen University according to the current competition.

Prof. Margarita Karamihova, Dr. Habill.

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