

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Rositsa Angelova,
chair of the scientific jury

for the academic position "Associate Professor"

Professional field: 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences
(Ethnography – Bulgarian Ethnology)

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen,
Faculty of Humanities, Department of History and Archaeology

I. ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Only one candidate took part in the procedure for the academic position “Associate Professor” – Ivelina Avramova Eftimova. She graduated with a master's degree from Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen in 2001. In 2006, she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Gender positions in the Bulgarian traditional family". Her research is related to her participation in one international, three national and ten university projects. In addition, she presents certificates of proficiency in Turkish language (level A1) and English language (level B2). Eftimova is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Scientists, branch – Shumen, takes part in the editorial board of three journals; she is a lecturer of both BA and MA students; she successfully supervised six graduate students, authored two reviews of diploma theses, and prepared five students for participation in scientific forums. The candidate participated in two teaching mobilities - in Lodz, Poland in 2016 and in Eskişehir, Turkey in 2020.

II. PROCEDURE 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. She presents a list of articles and conference papers in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, total number 23. She has also correctly included declarations

of co-authorship for two of her publications. She listed 12 citations. Her publications cover topics such as the construction of gender positions in the family and family-inheritance legal relations, migration and changes in socialization, the current state of traditional crafts among the Bulgarian Turks, theoretical aspects in the construction of ethnic identity, the role of girls' education in post-liberation Bulgaria, the influence of games and toys on behavior patterns; the ethnological aspects of aging in Bulgarian traditional culture.

The set of documents provided by the applicant is complete and correct and gives reason to conclude that no violations were committed during the implementation of the procedure and that it complies with the requirements of the relevant legal acts.

III. SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The candidate's main work for participation in the procedure is the monograph entitled "Ethnological aspects of old age and aging in Bulgarian society (from tradition to modernity)". The paper contains an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, a list of used literature and sources, appendices and photographs, with a total volume of 213 pages. It was built on the basis of field material covering the period from 2016 to 2020 in a relatively small geographical area - Shumen, Kaspichan, Targovishte, Isparih, Pliska and villages in the region of Shumen.

The presented monograph is an original scientific study. The text is written at a high linguistic level, observing the requirements of the scientific style and the ease and comprehensibility of the scientific statements. It is commendable that hypotheses and outcomes are included in the conclusion, which on the one hand facilitates the reader, and on the other hand clarifies the main achievements of the work in a concise manner. The scientific work would benefit if more informants from different parts of Bulgaria were interviewed. Then the sample

would have a truly representative character and the conclusions would be significant. A similar remark can be made regarding the advocated thesis that only those born in the 40s and 50s of the 20th centuries were raised by parents who were carriers of traditional norms and values. The use of only one fund from the Shumen State Archive limits the basis for comparison and conclusions. The specificity of the topic "Ethnological aspects of old age and aging in Bulgarian society (from tradition to modernity)" predetermines the text of the monograph as a scientific contribution as a whole. The question of the activities in pensioners' clubs has not been considered in the specialized literature. For the first time an analysis of old age and aging in Bulgarian society is made, creatively, with the use of rich source and historical material. In this way, the existing knowledge on the subject is enriched, in particular in Shumen region and on a national level. Against this background, the private contributions of labor begin to emerge. First of all, the new material introduced into scientific circulation should be noted. It is present in all parts of the monograph. Very interesting are Ivelina Eftimova's assessments and analyzes of the importance of pensioner clubs as a viable form of civic association; of their cultural activity, of the innovative study of the clubs and their specificity before and after 1989; as well as the application of an ethnological approach to the topic of old age and aging in Bulgarian society in periods of transition. The modern methodology applied by Eftimova makes the presentation of the activity of the pensioner clubs an additional contribution of the work. This is a large source of field material to work with and reveals excellent knowledge of the topics.

It could be argued that the monograph is "socialized". On separate topics in it, Ivelina Eftimova has published a significant number of articles, and, as can be observed, she is interested in the issue for many years. Some of them are published in *Istorikii*, a series of Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, in the journal "Bulgarian Ethnology", etc. The publications have the same high level as found in the monograph itself.

IV. CONCLUSION

The broad scientific interests, the high quality of the publications, the many years of teaching experience and developed lecture courses, the fulfillment of the national requirements under Art. 2b, Para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria give me a solid reason to support the application of Assistant Professor Ivelina Eftimova, PhD for an Associate Professor at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' and 'A' followed by a flourish.

Shumen, 20/08/2022

Prof. Dr. Rositsa Angelova