

OPINION

of Prof. Momchil Metodiev, D. Sc., New Bulgarian University,
habilitated in the professional field 2.2. "History and Archaeology"
on the scientific works of the participant in the competition for the academic position "Associate
Professor", in the field of higher education 2. Humanities,
professional field 2.2 History and archaeology,
announced in the State Gazette, no. 29 of April 12, 2022,
with candidate Senior Assistant Professor Boyan Yuliev Dumanov, Ph.D

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimal national requirements and requirements of the New Bulgarian University

Based on presented documents, it could be summarized that Senior Assistant Professor Boyan Yuliev Dumanov, Ph.D, fully covers and even exceeds minimal national requirements, regulated by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for candidates for the academic position "Associate Professor", as well as the Ordinance on the Development of the Academic Staff of the NBU.

II. Research activities and results

Boyan Dumanov's scientific interests are related to the archaeology and more specifically to the research of dependencies and relations between man and nature, and to the reconstruction of ancient economies based on local resources. The results of his studies are presented in numerous articles and studies published in different editions and scientific journals, and are summarized, and to a large extent upgraded, in the habilitation work presented for the announced competition.

As could be seen from the documents attached to the competition, after the defense of his doctoral dissertation, published as a monographic work under the title "Late Antique Jewelry in the Diocese

of Thrace and Dacia (IV-VII centuries)" in 2012, the candidate Boyan Dumanov, Ph. D. vastly enlarged and deepened his research activities.

Presented monographic habilitation work, entitled "Archeology of the iron industry on the Lower Danube and Stara Planina region (Roman imperial era - the end of the XVIII century), published by the New Bulgarian University in 2021, is characterized with its innovative scientific contributions and is based on rich empirical data. The work also proves the author's remarkable knowledge of the general literature and historiography on the subject. In his research Boyan Dumanov, Ph. D. focuses on new, so far poorly researched problems that fully correspond to modern approaches in archaeology.

Formal review of Boyan Dumanov's contributions should not let us to neglect the most essential advantage in his research approach, presented also in his habilitation work. This is the interdisciplinary nature of his research, which implies expertise and knowledge in different scientific fields. As the author himself points out in the introduction to his book, "the study of dependencies between man and nature transforms the archeology from a 'crutch of history' into a multidisciplinary science", which requires from the archaeologist expertise also in the fields of geology, chemistry, biology, physical anthropology, mathematics and informatics, while results of this research is valuable for ethnography, cultural studies, political science and sociology. The habilitation thesis of Boyan Dumanov, Ph. D. successfully defends and achieves those goals. The monograph is the result of a long-term research, including of the research project "Archaeology of raw materials: chemical and geological analyses", executed in the period 2016-19 with the use of full range of archaeological methods.

In addition to the presented monographic work, the candidate has 3 articles published in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information; 2 articles and reports published in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals; 2 studies published in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals and he participated in 3 collective monographs, he also has 39 scientific publications different from those presented for the completion of his PhD. The articles and studies have been published both in collective volumes and journals edited by the New Bulgarian University and in other Bulgarian and foreign specialized journals, in Bulgarian and English. This is not only a formal, but also an essential indicator for the scientific contributions and achievements of the candidate.

Publications of the candidate cover both results of his archaeological fieldwork and theoretical research in the field of the interaction between politics and archaeology, as well as on the topic of migration processes in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

A real proof for Boyan Dumanov's contributions is the fact that his works have been cited many times by other authors – his texts have been cited or reviewed in 4 editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; in 3 peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes and in 5 peer-reviewed non-referenced journal publications.

III. Learning and teaching activity

Boyan Dumanov has a rich teaching experience both in Bulgarian and English, at the New Bulgarian University and in the universities in other countries. Among lectures delivered by him is the series of eight lectures given at the University of Durham in Great Britain. The candidate has participated and presented the results of his research at 21 scientific conferences, several of them international.

Impressive is the data on his work with students - he was principal supervisor of one successful doctoral student, he supervised 24 successfully defended bachelor's and master's theses; he reviewed 18 successfully defended bachelor's and master's theses and participated in numerous scientific committees. He has led numerous student internships on archaeological excavations and field research in the period 2005-2015, 2017, 2019. In addition, he has provided 3 Moodle courses with learning materials. An indicator of his responsible attitude towards students is the fact that his average rating from student surveys in recent years is an excellent 4.75 (with a maximum rating of 5.00).

The future research program outlined by the candidate also could be defined as very ambitious, since it includes continuation of his research work with the aim of preparing 3 monographic works, based on upcoming archaeological field searches.

IV. Administrative and public activities

Boyan Dumanov, Ph. D. has also rich administrative experience, including as a member of the Academic Council of the NBU in the period 2012 – 2015. The real recognition of his

administrative qualities is the fact that since 2012 he has invariably been the Head of the Department of Archeology in the NBU.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known the candidate Dr. Boyan Dumanov for many years, however I got to know him relatively recently as a university colleague at the New Bulgarian University, after my recent joining of the team of the Department of History at the NBU. My impression is that Boyan Dumanov is a conscientious colleague and scrupulous researcher who works diligently with students and manages to maintain a good working and academic atmosphere.

Everything mentioned so far makes me convinced to state my positive opinion on the candidacy of Senior Assistant Professor Boyan Yuliev Dumanov, Ph.D. for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 2.2 History and Archeology in the Department of "Archaeology" of the New Bulgarian University and to recommend his election for that position by the Academic Council of the NBU.

Date: 16.08.2022

Signature:

Prof. Momchil Metodiev, D. Sc