

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexander Donev Angelov, Institute of Art Studies, prof. dir. 8.4 Theory of Arts. Theater and Film Studies, in his capacity of member of the scientific jury, initiated by the Director of the IAS

CONCERNING: The competition for acquiring the academic position of **Associate Professor** in *Film Studies, Film Art, and Television* (History of the Bulgarian Cinema; Archives and Institutions) professional direction 8.4 Theater and Film Art, (published in State Gazette issue 41 of 09.05.2023) for the needs of the *Screen Arts Department* of the Institute of Art Studies, BAS, published in State Gazette (issue 41/09.05.2023) and on the internet page of the IAS

Candidate Chief Ass. Dr. Deyan Ivanov Statulov

I. General description of the submitted materials.

1. Data on the candidature

The following academic works of the candidate, which have not been used for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", are accepted for consideration: author's monograph */Re/ commissioned films. Propaganda Practices in Bulgarian Cinema. 1944-1989* (Sofia: Locus, 2023, 186 p.), and 8 articles and 1 study published in academic collections (*Art Readings. New Art Module. /2016,2018, 2019, 2021, 2022/, etc.*), specialized journals such as *Art Studies Quarterly. Bulgarian Musicology*. The attached list of citations shows that the candidate has a total of 13 citations in monographs, scientific collections, and articles.

Also submitted are an application for admission to the competition, a professional curriculum vitae in accordance with the European model, a diploma of higher education (Master's degree), a diploma for the degree of Doctor of Education and Science, a certificate of holding the academic position of Chief Assistant, a general list of publications (with abstracts) and a copy of the habilitation thesis, a reference to the original scientific contributions of the habilitation thesis, a card from NACID certifying fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, paragraph 2 2b, para. 5 of the ADASRB, as well as the minimum requirements of the Institute of Art Studies - BAS.

The submitted documents meet all the requirements and provide sufficiently complete information on the applicant's contributions and publications.

2. Data on the applicant

The candidate has more than 11 years of work experience at the Institute of Art Studies, where he obtained a PhD degree, and since 2016 he has held the position of Chief Assistant in the Screen Arts Department.

3. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific works and achievements

The candidate has worked and submitted publications in the following areas of the competition:

- Institutional Formation and Ideological Practices in Bulgarian Feature Films (1944-1989) with an emphasis on film propaganda.
- Repertoire and Festival Policies in Bulgarian Socialist Cinema.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor have been met - in general according to the ADASRB and according to the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedures for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for the Occupation of Academic Positions at the Institute of Art Studies.

No plagiarism has been found in the scientific works submitted to the competition.

4. Characteristics and evaluation of project work and other activities

During the time Statulov has held the position of Chief Assistant he has presented 4 papers at the annual international conference *Art Readings*, organized by the Institute of Art Studies - BAS. He has participated in numerous other conferences and scientific forums held in Bulgaria.

The candidate has participated in a total of 3 scientific projects, one project with a popular scientific orientation (The exhibition "Vasil Gendov. Life between theatre and cinema"). He is a lecturer at the Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridski", film commentator of bTV. Statulov is actively involved in the scientific life and organizational activities of the Institute of Art Studies.

5. Content analysis of the candidate's scientific and applied achievements contained in the competition materials

The candidate's scientific works cover the subject of the competition thesis, presented as papers at reputable scientific conferences or published in scientific journals. The main contribution of these works is related to deepening and enriching the knowledge of the history of Bulgarian cinema during the socialist era. The controversial phenomena and practices of this period are analyzed in close relation to the interpretation of the relevant political, economic, and social processes characterizing the development of Bulgarian society. It is important to note the candidate's specific ability to search out and integrate in his publications essential archival sources that substantiate his own scholarly theses and expand cinema-historical knowledge of the totalitarian era.

The habilitation thesis */Re/Commissioned Films. Propaganda Practices in Bulgarian Cinema. 1944-1989* (Sofia: Locus, 2023, 186 pp.) represents a qualitatively new stage in the candidate's scientific development. His new research practically continues, but also significantly deepens the themes developed by Chief Ass. Dr. Deyan Statulov in his doctoral dissertation entitled *Ideological Censorship in Bulgarian Feature Films. Mechanisms of Functioning (1948-1989)* (2015). The approach that the candidate demonstrates here is more thorough, more analytical, more complex in its presentation of the issues. This is also conditioned by the topic itself: while censorship is predominantly an administrative and repressive instrument, propaganda is a much broader topic and more complex social, political, and psychological mechanisms are at work, which are explained in the process of their historical transformation during the period.

The monograph with the above-mentioned title presented for evaluation by the scientific jury of the competition represents the first comprehensive study of film propaganda in the socialist era. An in-depth theoretical introduction examines the nature of propaganda, the historical context of its emergence and the specifics of its manifestations in the field of cinema. The focus of the study is not so much on the ideological and aesthetic analysis of films and their specific propagandistic impact, but on the functioning of institutions and the basic mechanisms for the implementation of ideological propaganda through the means of feature films. In addition to the processes of film production, practices in the fields of film exhibition, repertory politics, and international activity that serve propaganda purposes are examined in depth.

6. Critical comments and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the peer-reviewed works and the activities of the candidate, as well as for the future use of the scientific and applied contributions of the candidate.

7. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known the candidate for almost 30 years and have excellent impressions of his modesty, hard work, sense of responsibility, scientific competence, and collegiality. He possesses all the necessary personal and professional qualities to hold the position of Associate Professor and is one of the colleagues who are an example of respect and who contribute to maintaining the high scientific and public prestige of the Institute of Art Studies - BAS.

8. Conclusion on the applicant

Having read the materials and scientific works submitted in the competition and on the basis of the analysis of their significance and scientific and applied contributions contained therein, I confirm that the scientific achievements meet the requirements of the ADASRB, RIASRB, the Regulations and Conditions for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the

Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

In particular, the candidate meets the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been found in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

I give my **favorable opinion** of the application.

II. General conclusion

After reading the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I give my positive assessment with full conviction and recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Art Studies - BAS to elect Chief Ass. Dr. Deyan Ivanov Statulov to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional direction 8.4. Theater and Film Art, academic specialty *History of Bulgarian Cinema: Archives and Institutions*.

Date: 19. 09. 2023 г.

Opinion prepared by:

(Assoc. Prof. Alexander Donev)