

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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OPINION

By: Antoaneta Georgieva Zapryanova, Assoc. Prof. PhD, IHS-BAS
Regarding: The application of the following candidate for the academic position of PROFESSOR according to the Bulgarian legislation at the Institute for Historical Studies – BAS, Department of Auxiliary Sciences of History and Informatics, in Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities in Professional Field 2.2. History and archeology, scientific specialty “Documentation science, archival science, paleography, including historiography and sources of information in research” (Demographic Aspects of Population Migration in the Third Bulgarian State). The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette issue 66 dated 20 August 2019.
Candidate: Penka Peykovska, Assoc. Prof., DSc

I present the evaluation below in my capacity as a member of the Academic Jury for the procedure. This evaluation is based on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Rules for its implementation, the BAS and internal IHS rules, regulations, and policies, including the Habilitation Procedure and the advertisement on the IHS website regarding the procedure. Evaluation of the Candidate.

Evaluation of the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. DSc Penka Peykovska appears at the announced competition for the acquisition of the academic position of “Professor” with a habilitation work dedicated to the migration of the population in Bulgaria during the period of 1912–1944 proving again that she is a real specialist in the field of historical demography. Why again?

After defending a dissertation for “Candidate of Historical Sciences” (now Ph.D.) on the topic “Documents of Personal Origin for the Bulgarian-Hungarian Cultural Relations 1879–1941” DSc Peykovska continued to explore in depth certain aspects of historical demography.

Her habilitation work for the acquisition of the academic position of “Associated Professor” in 2014 was on the topic of “Bulgarian Communities in Hungary in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Migration and Historical Demographic Characteristics”. In 2015 Assoc. Prof. Peykovska acquired the Doctor of Science degree after a successful defense of a dissertation on the topic of “Migrations from Austria-Hungary and Russia to Bulgaria (mid-1960s – mid-1930s). Historical Demographic Aspects”. Undoubtedly, the large number of studies, articles, reviews, scientific editorials and compilation must be taken into account here, all in the field of historical demography.

It is worth mentioning the fact that she is the only candidate in the competition, i.e. she has established her place as a scientist in this scientific field and there is no other competitor. In addition, the Commission, which has checked the applicant's documents, has not identified any gaps or irregularities within the meaning of the ZRABRB and its implementing rules and the applicant has been admitted to the competition. DSc Peykovska is a perfectionist in both scientific and administrative work.

Her habilitation work "Demographic Aspects of Migrations in Bulgaria 1912-1944" has been recently published by the Institute for Historical Studies. It is an impressive volume, where the historical demographic picture of migrations has been examined and objectively presented on 348 pages in diachronic and synchronous terms. Let me express the most laconic definition of historical demography using the author's words: "Migrations of population have been a constant companion of mankind in its history and have often determined the fates of some peoples."

The presented analysis and synthesis united in diversity proves that migration has been a constant companion of humanity in its past, present and future. And furthermore – that historical demography is a "teacher" for the survival of the peoples, although practice has shown that peoples, including us Bulgarians, have found it difficult to learn from the mistakes of the historical past, we hardly use its lessons".

It is to be emphasized that the topic has been partially investigated, revealing separate aspects. Such a complex and system-structural analysis, made by DSc P. Peykovska is reslizede for the first time concerning migration in Bulgaria and this is her major contribution to the historical demography and social history of the country.

The first part of the book is devoted to the different aspects of external migration in Bulgaria in the respective qualitative and quantitative dimensions of the spatial orientation of the refugee flows of Bulgarian ethnic population. In the second part the factors, scope and dynamics of internal migration are examined; here emphasis is also placed on the socio-economic profile of the internally migrating local population of the Bulgarian ethnic group. Part Three monitors the interrelation between migration and urbanization in Bulgaria according to census data on urban population and its birthplace within the country and abroad.

It is important to emphasize that in each of the parts the goals, tasks and methods of the specific subject-logical analysis are highlighted, as well as the conceptual apparatus being in use. They have their heuristic significance in the overall contributory nature of the habilitation work.

No less important is the contribution of Assoc. Prof. Peykovska in the methodology applied. Both, in her habilitation work and in her published monographs, studies and articles, she has proven and proves that she is an eminent specialist in the field of historical demography, with professional skills

to apply interdisciplinary methodology, to seek out and to analyze critically statistical and other types of sources, to present quantitative photography of the studied processes in the form of tables, diagrams, maps.

In fact, the methodology applied is the best "attestation" for the attitudinal nature of the analysis and conclusions drawn in the habilitation work, where the event history is the necessary background of demographic processes and their historical and demographic picture. This background is enriched in the promulgated work according to the recommendations made during the first discussion of the work.

At this discussion, I shared opinion that it is difficult for me to make critical notes, knowing the extremely difficult, Odyssey route to search and critically analyze statistical sources, when revealing percentage correlations according to different historical and demographic indicators, which are the main empirical basis for historical demography. I also emphasize it here in this opinion of mine.

I think it is good for the author to prepare a separate study in which to extend one of the contributing moments in the habilitation work. It is a matter of further developing the topic of labor migration from Bulgaria to Germany as a consequence of the bilateral agreements concluded in 1939. D.Sc. P. Peykovska has used and analyzed for the first time documents from the vast array of the Police Directorate. The work presented focuses on the historical demographic picture, but it is understood that the available documents give opportunity for a multifaceted study of this migration. Therefore, my recommendation is to approach the issue from a socio-anthropological point of view.

I continue with the positive evaluations concerning the reference for the scientific contributions to habilitation work - modest, but objective. I also draw attention to the annexed list of graphs, charts and tables, sources and literature, an application that illustrate the number of local, internal and external migrants in cities with a population of over 10 000 people available, 1910, 1926, 1934.

The list of publications of Assoc. Prof. DSc Penka Peykovska is informative too. It can be seen that of the total number of publications 11 are on the very topic of the habilitation work, plus a collective monograph, compilation, 7 studies and 2 articles – they are all good attestation for the author.

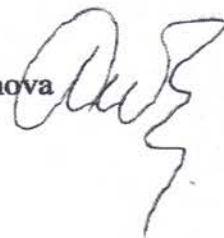
I also add here the professional efforts made by P. Peykovska to restore the series of "Auxiliary History Disciplines", the initiation and launch of the new international book series entitled "Publications of the Bulgarian-Hungarian History Commission" (of which 5 volumes have already been published), the organized numerous international conferences and symposia with international participation, but also with the participation of students and doctoral students, scientific guidance and tutorship of four graduates and a doctoral student, her role as a scientific secretary of the Department.

Conclusion

All this gives me the reason to recommend that the members of the distinguished scientific jury vote for the award of the academic title of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. DSc Penka Ivanova Peykovska within the professional field 2.2. (History and Archeology).

05.12.2019

Assoc. Prof. PhD Antoaneta Zapryanova

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AZ' with a stylized flourish extending downwards.