

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REPORT

by Assoc. Prof. Mariyana Stamova, PhD, Institute of Balkan Studies and Center
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in connection with the competition for the academic post of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.2. History and Archeology, scientific specialty "History of Bulgaria" (The Bulgarian Exarchate in the Ottoman Empire in the late 19th - early 20th century), promulgated in the State Gazette no. 62/27.07.2021, with two candidates admitted to participate in the competition - Senior Assistant Dr. Voin Bozhinov and Senior Assistant Dr. Rositsa Lelyova

Senior Assistant Dr. Voin Bozhinov participates in the competition with six books (one of which as a habilitation thesis/monograph and two books based on a defended PhD dissertation), two chapters from collective monographs, 38 articles and one study. As a main monograph for participation in the competition Dr. Voin Bozhinov has presented a habilitation thesis entitled "The Government of the May 19th Plotters May 19, 1934 - January 22, 1935", Sofia, 2017, 247 pp. The book expands and deepens the knowledge on an issue in the field of national history, tracing in detail the nine-month rule of the so-called May 19th plotters: a symbiosis between the circle "Zveno" and the representatives of the Military League. The scholarly production submitted by Senior Assistant Dr. Voin Bozhinov for the competition, in addition to being voluminous, is distinguished by its diversity, which shows his broad academic interests. Important place in the scientific activity of Dr. Voin Bozhinov in recent years occupies contemporary Balkan history, in particular the interethnic relations in socialist Yugoslavia and the place of the Republic of Macedonia in the interstate relations and modern geopolitics in the late 20th and early 21st century. The candidate has not limited himself to one topic and part of his research is devoted also to the Young Turk revolution, the Bulgarian independence, the Bulgarian national question and Bulgaria's relations with the neighbors between the two world wars, to individuals from the political and military life such as Andrey Lyapchev, Kiril Drangov, the processes in the IMRO and personalities such as Ivan Mihaylov, the contemporary processes in the Balkans and others. His scientific output is of high academic value and shows an in-depth and critical analysis of his research.

Senior Assistant Dr. Rositsa Lelyova participates in the competition with two books (one as a main habilitation thesis and the other as a defended PhD dissertation), 18 studies and articles, one documentary edition and as an editor of one collection of articles. Dr. Lelyova's

scientific interests show a consistency and an in-depth archival and historiographical research over the years. The habilitation thesis, entitled "On the Spiritual Front from Ilinden to the Balkan War. The Bulgarian Exarchate and the Exarchate Institutions in Macedonia 1903-1912", Sofia, 2021, 287 pp., which is the basis of her participation in the competition, is a successful attempt to outline a comprehensive picture of the state and activity of the Bulgarian Exarchate and the Exarchate institutions in Macedonia, as well as their relations with the main political factors in the Ottoman Empire in the post-Ilinden period from 1903 to 1912. One of the important scientific contributions of Dr. Rositsa Lelyova is the introduction in scientific circulation of a rich documentary material from the Bulgarian archives. In addition, in her publications she addresses some issues that have not been the focus of previous research: the relationship between the Exarchate and the local exarchate institutions in Macedonia; the question of the disputed churches and schools in Macedonia between the Exarchate and the Patriarchate in the post-Ilinden period; the main problems that the Exarchate had to deal with, as the activity of the Bulgarian church communities in the dioceses.

In conclusion, Dr. Voin Bozhinov and Dr. Rositsa Lelyova meet and exceed the minimum requirements for the academic post of "Associate Professor", and in addition to their rich scientific output, they have included in their applications their citations and scientific contributions, the participation in research projects and forums. Both of them meet all the requirements of the law, and have the qualities of independent researchers on scientific issues.

All of the above, as well as in view of the announced topic "The Bulgarian Exarchate in the Ottoman Empire in the late 19th and early 20th century", gives me a reason to vote for the candidates in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the following order:

1. Senior Assistant Dr. Rositsa Lelyova

2. Senior Assistant Dr. Voin Bozhinov

On these grounds I recommend the scientific jury to vote positively on the candidacy of Senior Assistant Dr. Rositsa Lelyova for holding the academic post of "Associate Professor" in professional field 2.2. History and archeology, scientific specialty "History of Bulgaria" (The Bulgarian Exarchate in the Ottoman Empire in the late 19th and early 20th century) for the needs of the Section "Modern Bulgarian History" at the Institute for Historical Studies, BAS.

Assoc. Prof. Mariyana Stamova, PhD

Sofia, 10 November 2021