

OPINION

prof. Veselin Metodiev, NBU on the academic work in relation to the application for assistant professorship tenure in 2.2 History and Archeology with candidate Dr Dimitar Gyudurov

Basic Requirements

The academic work of Dimitar Gyudurov fulfills the normative requirement. He is a fully devoted member of the academic community of New Bulgarian University. I cannot hold any objections to that part of his presentation.

Academic output

I was part of the reviewers committee when Mr Gyudurov obtained his doctoral degree. So I duly declare that he covers this criteria of the application process.

In his application procedure Mr Gyudurov has presented to us his monographic work “Bulgarians and opiums: Production and Trade”(269p.) He enters that field of study of the Bulgarian past where the state interest meets the societal one. I would like to stress this out as a contribution in the true sense of the word, since such an interconnection has been neglected by our historiography, mainly due to ideological reasons. The history of the people in Bulgaria has been regarded as somewhat less important. The state was the one at the forefront of major research interests while the nation served only as a bypass to the revolution’s struggle. On that basis I claim that Dimitar Gyudurov has landed on an ‘undiscovered territory’.

I would like to accentuate the archival input of his research. Amongst the largest archival collections of the period 1878-1944 is that of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Health. By reading Gyudurov’s text one can clearly see the reasoning behind the agglomeration of those two, otherwise seen as distant, sectors into one centralized governmental unit. This illustrates the fact that the newly formed Bulgarian state was ready to face the incoming challenges.

As a next major contribution, I would like to point out to the unveiling of the role of the process of mass production and trade of opium and as part of the economic activity and its repercussions during the interwar years. Dr Gyudurov has also introduced the world of consumption of those substances by the Bulgarian population, not based on folklore tales but with detailed reading of the data, compiled by the official authorities at the time.

In conclusion I want to underscore that the following monographic work not only fulfills the quantitative requirements, but it is also an entertaining reading, thus provoking fully deserved and vast interest among the intellectual community in Bulgaria.

Our colleague has presented to us his academic works in the field of Bulgarian history for the period 1878-1944. In that regard I would like to turn special attention to the fact that Dr Gyudurov has published another monograph in the field of social history in this period. His works can be traced in NCID. On that basis the candidate fulfils the legal requirements.

Member of the academic community

Gyudurov is an active member of the academic community of our university. He has successfully integrated his research interests among other scholars, outside of the discipline of History. He has been vested with an administrative duty as director of the council responsible for the curriculum of the department of History.

Dr Gyudurov has been fully involved in the activities of the Department of History: lectures, indoor seminars, traveling seminars and conferences. He is well respected by the student community and has an excellent record of teaching.

Personal impression

I know Dimitar from his period as a student in NBU. Also, I have followed his research interests during his tenure at the National Academy of Science. I consider that as a reasonable decision to continue his academic career in our university, thus becoming part of this community up to this day. Through the year we have held personal talks on different topics in, society and state. I dare to say that I use his findings in many of my lectures. Gyudurov's personal qualities can be named: personal goodness, interest in the arguments of the other side and finally attention and tenacious work with historical sources. I am certain that in the span of time, his academic interests will serve to open new pages from the Bulgarian past. That is my personal stance.

Recommendation

To keep his research on the history of state and society in Bulgaria in the interwar period.

Conclusion

On that basis I can recommend Dr Gyudurov to be included in the selection for the position of tenure of assistant professor, organized by the Academic Council of New Bulgarian University. I believe that he deserves the votes of our colleagues and by doing so they will take a step further in the process of development of the academic staff of NBU.

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