

Opinion

served the needs of the announced academic contest the position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy /Theory of knowledge/ for the needs of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski, announced in State Gazette No. 55 of June 28, 2024.

By Prof. PhD. Veselin Hristov Dafov,

Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

The only candidate allowed to participate in the competition by the admission committee authorized for this purpose by the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy of SU, which assesses whether the candidate meets the formal requirements for participation in the competition, is Associate Professor Rosen Lyubomirov Lyutskanov. Apart from that, according to the unanimous decision of this Jury under this procedure, the candidate meets the minimum national requirements, with which decision the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Lyutskanov is accepted for evaluation and the procedure is started. My vote "for" is based on the assessment that the presented academic and publication activity fully meets and even repeatedly exceeds the conditions of Art. 24, para. 1 of ZRASRB, incl. the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities, defined in art. 26, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB, art. 1a and Art. 53, para. 4 of the Regulations for the Application of the ŽRASRB, the Table for the fulfillment of the criteria for the national minimum requirements for an associate professor for District 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.3. Philosophy in the Appendix to Art. 1a, para. 1 of ZRASRB under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3. Also, let me state this right here, after carefully reading all the proposed posts, I have no doubts about the authorship of the proposed texts and rule out any form of plagiarism or the like.

In short: the academic (in three dimensions: publication, research and teaching) activity of Associate Professor Lyutskanov is impressive - both in measure and in number (Let me note here the fact that the candidate Rosen Lyutskanov is already an associate professor and appears with a new set of achievements, with which he again meets the requirements for an associate professor). I will not allow myself to list the evidence for these claims, insofar as they appear in the tender documents. But I will take the liberty of briefly discussing only the weight of the last of the three dimensions - that of publications, as Assoc. Prof. Lyutskanov has long enjoyed a good name among the teaching staff, and his research (including translation) is of a global scale.

The great merit in the work of Associate Professor Lyutskanov is the painstaking way in which the descriptions-researches are carried out. When Rosen Lutskanov sets out to explore the epistemology of disagreement or critical thinking, he insists on the

systematic way in which he will do so. As the hope that this will be precisely a philosophical work, and not some other work, comes from the fact that each of the questions under consideration can be referred to an achievement that has already happened in the history of philosophy (See, for example, Conclusion of "Handbook of Critical Thinking", pp. 379-380) or starting from the relationship between philosophy and mathematics (along the lines of the analysis of basic concepts, conceptual distinctions and their formalizations) to propose computational procedures for establishing the truth by measure, number and number (See for example the Introduction of "An Epistemology of Disagreement," pp. ix-x. Perhaps it is still worth noting that in the Book of Wisdom of Solomon 11:21 it says, "by measure, number and weight" (as it is in English translations, but also in other European languages), as in the title of "Epistemology of Disagreement," but not as given in the Introduction on p. x, "by measure, number, and figure").

The dignity in question allows the *Manuel for Critical Thinking* to be used as a determinant of critical thinking, and the *Epistemology of Disagreement* as a logarithmic table that allows us to find truth values.

But precisely these great achievements in the mentioned books also determine the shortcomings of such philosophizing (this, of course, should not surprise Rosen Lutskanov, who knows how there is a moment when swimming and giving are the same) and the author himself has self-awareness (however, here is the moment to declare that the self-assessments formulated in the REFERENCE FOR ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS fully correspond to what was presented).

The determiner helps us to establish the kind of thing (whose class or genus, however, we already know) that we encounter - by its characteristics, behind which we can even attribute manifestations and properties. But not to lead it, take care of it, develop it, improve it or destroy it. With which I also formulate the main shortcoming of the "Manuel...", for whose philosophical foundations I suspect that we must hold responsible Rosen Lyutskanov's understanding of systematicity, namely as comprehensiveness, but not as that which allows different things (elements) to be taken both as different and yet *different* [things, moments, manifestations, functions, agencies, actions, etc.] *of the same*, which allows in each of them to discover a arche, a principle that is common to them, without this principle itself being a [new] characteristic. This is evident in the problem of ending the enumeration - we do it when we feel that it is already enough, but we do not stop being careful if something will appear that we must simply add to the previous ones. And so one can swim in the sea of singularities to infinity without drowning, but also without having swum across.

To use logarithm tables, we must first convert the number to "logarithmic" form. And with this metaphor I also formulate the flaw that I recognize in deducing the

disagreement by measure, number, and weight. In this case, I hold Rosen Lyutskanov's understanding of sociality responsible. Although the attempt at social epistemology is laudable, in this version we encounter an ontological self-limitation. The social here is approached as mechanics, as a mechanism of different agents, each of which is actually precisely the subject of truth-seeking and truth-encountering. And getting a common, social truth becomes a matter of calibration, not exploration, self-creation, and creativity. The social is taken as that in which a knower has to act with another knower, not as one in which a knower has arisen to transcend the agentic, taken as borne by the individual-human. The subject of knowledge of truth in Rosen Lyutskanov's book remains the individual person, taken as an agent.

A reading of the book, in which I tried to play out the numerous examples (here it is appropriate to note the heuristic and cunning, but always very clever, way in which Rosen Lyutskanov works on his arguments, a delight for the reader) not through individuals, but through states [countries], teams, staffs, companies, families, etc. showed a number of invalidations of this epistemology's claim to sociality, though it had its part in crafting one. I will allow myself to ask Rosen Lyutskanov to take a stand on this issue - with what understanding of the social can one enter the field of knowledge at all, are there beings not necessarily based in the biological, who are also agents of knowledge (thank God in the age of AI, as if it were easy to avoid accusations of metaphysical, in the bad sense of the word, or theological bias when asking such questions)?

Moreover, there is also the question of the reality of disagreement itself and its ontology, insofar as the commitment to how disagreement is even possible and from where (from whom, from what being, from exactly what subject) can it derive its being at all remains neglected?

I accept all of the author's worded contributions regarding the 13 other publications.

In conclusion, I give my definite opinion "positive" the candidacy of Rosen Lyutskanov for the position of the competition - associate professor of Theory of Knowledge at Sofia University - and I will vote with conviction, with pleasure for this and looking forward to a fruitful joint work in the Department of Philosophy.

17.09.2024

Prof. PhD. Veselin Dafov