

OPINION
regarding the procedure of application for
the academic position „Assistant Professor“
in professional domain 2.3. Philosophy (Theory of Knowledge)
for the needs of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,
Philosophy Faculty,
announced in ДВ, бр. 55/28.06.2024 г. and on the Internet page of SU

This is the professional opinion of Dimitar Elchinov, PhD and Assistant Professor at the Philosophy Department of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, serving as a member of the scientific jury in professional domain **2.3. Philosophy (Theory of Knowledge)**, concerning the opened tenure position for an Assistant Professor announced with № ПД-38-392-11.07.2024 of the Rector of Sofia University.

Documents for application were submitted by the following candidates:

Assistant Professor Rosen Lutskanov, PhD (IPS, BAS)

1. General description of the materials provided by the applicants

1. Information about the submission

All documents submitted by the applicant for the participation in the procedure satisfy the necessary requirements for application found in ЗРАСРБ, ППЗРАСРБ and Правилника за условията и реда за придобиване на научни степени и заемане на академични длъжности в СУ „Св. Климент Охридски“ (ПУРПНЦЗДСУ) [Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"]. In his application, Rosen Lutskanov has submitted 70 scientific publications among which 4 monographs, 3 long papers (i.e. ‘studias’; 1 in English) and 63 papers (19 in English). The monograph and papers included in the Table for satisfying the Minimal National Requirements for the position are given in original as artefacts (see artefacts 16.1-16.15). All necessary additional documents demonstrating the academic achievements of the candidate are included in the application (see Contributions, Service Memo for work experience, Proofs concerning the indicators according to member 112, paragraph 2. – see 15.1-15.3 and etc).

2. Information about the candidate

Rosen Lubomirov Lutskanov has a BA in Philosophy awarded by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2002 where he defends a thesis on “The living idea in the system of philosophical sciences”, supervised by Prof. Ivan Stefanov. Only 4 years later, in 2006, he defends his PhD at the Logic Section of the Institute

for Philosophical Studies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The title of his dissertation is “The phenomenon of incompleteness: logical analysis, mathematical justification and philosophical interpretation of restriction theorems” and his work was supervised by Prof. Martin Tabakov. It has been clear ever since that the epistemological problem of justification was of a central interest for Lutskanov. In 2008 he publishes his first book on the topic of his dissertation – *The Theorem of Incompleteness: Contexts and Interpretations*. The applicant has specialized in Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary and was awarded the prize of BAS “Prof. Marin Drinov” for young scientist under 35 for 2008. He has extensive teaching experience and is responsible for multiple translations of philosophical and scientific works in Bulgarian. Since 2011, Lutskanov holds the position of Assistant Professor at the Logical Systems and Models Section of ISSK, BAS. In 2014 he becomes an Associated Professor at the same Section. Since 2017 he is an Associated Professor at the Knowledge and Reality: Models, Methodologies and Heuristics Section of ISSK, BAS.

3. General characteristics of scientific papers and accomplishments of the applicant

In **indicator group C**, the candidate has presented his new book: Люцканов, Р. 2024. *Епистемология на разногласието: с мяра, брой и тегло*. София: Изток-Запад, ISBN 978-619-01-1460-4 (see artefact 16.1). For that he should be awarded 100 points.

In **indicator group D**, the candidate has presented one more book that was published in 2024 -Люцканов, Р. 2024. *Наръчник за критическо мислене*. София: Изток-Запад, ISBN 978-619-01-1402-4. He has also presented one paper in an IF journal and 12 papers in reviewed journals. For that he receives 250 points from all indicators in this group.

In **indicator group E**, the candidate presents 10 citations of his various works in total (see 13). For that he should be awarded 70 points.

Finally, in **indicator group F**, the candidate has reported that he supervised one PhD student – Boris Volodiev Nikolov - who successfully defended his thesis. Lutskanov has also included in the table his participation in a research project, as well as his authorship of a high school textbook *Philosophy for the 10th grade* published by „Anubis“ (see artefact 15 for proofs). For this indicator group, Lutskanov should be awarded 61 points in total.

4. Characterization and assessment of the candidate`s teaching experience

Irrespectively of the fact that up to this moment Rosen Lutskanov has only held a research position, he also reports a rich and fruitful teaching experience in different universities and programs in the country. He starts teaching in the academic 2006/2007 and continues to do so up until the last academic year – 2023/2024. He

has read courses before specialists and non-philosophers. Lutskanov has thought both undergrads and grad students. Here is a detailed list of all courses he has ever thought:

In PF of SU:

1. „Conceptual introduction in the theory of artificial intelligence” – read in the master’s program Virtual Culture - 2017/2018, 2016/2017, 2013/2014, 2010/2011, 2009/2010
2. „Introduction to Logic“ (In English) – Philosophy in English, BA - 2020/2021

In other faculties of SU:

1. „Conceptual Analysis Techniques in Contemporary Analytic Philosophy“ – Scandinavian Studies, FCNP - 2020/2021, 2019/2020

Courses in NBU:

1. „Practical Logic” - 2016/2017, 2015/2016, 2014/2015, 2013/2014, 2012/2013
2. „Analytic Skills“ – 2023/2024, 2022/2023, 2021/2022, 2020/2021, 2019/2020
3. „Reasoning Skills“ (In English) – 2023/2024, 2022/2023 , 2021/2022, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019
4. „Philosophy of Psychology“ – 2023/2024, 2022/2023, 2020/2021

Courses in PU:

1. „Formal Logic“ – seminars - 2007/2008, 2006/2007
2. „Ontology – Part Two“ – 2019/2020, 2018/2019, 2017/2018, 2016/2017, 2015/2016
3. „Philosophy of Mind“ – 2023/2024, 2022/2023, 2021/2022

5. Analysis of the contents of the scientific works submitted by the candidate and his academic achievements and scientific contributions

Lutskanov’s last book *Епистемология на разногласието: с мяра, брой и тегло* presents us with an especially important, contributive work for the field of Bulgarian Epistemology. That is the first detailed and accomplished research project on disagreement by a Bulgarian author. Lutskanov is also the first philosopher to introduce the research field and problems of social epistemology to the Bulgarian reader. He is also the only Bulgarian philosopher doing formal epistemology and combining approaches in formal logic with his analysis of belief-forming, knowledge and justification. As Lutskanov has noted himself, his interdisciplinary research projects combine argumentative theory, formal and informal logic and theories in contemporary epistemology (see artefact 14 for a description of his accomplishments). That allows him to raise new and interesting arguments and to seek creative solutions to traditional problems in the theory of knowledge.

Another contribution made by Lutskanov is the development of Marvin Minski’s theory of learning which has direct practical application and provides a new approach to applied epistemology and heuristics. Here is the place to say that the author has also an important methodological contribution by putting together

the first handbook for critical thinking in Bulgaria (see *Наръчник за критическо мислене*). This book can be used both by philosophers as well as non-philosophers to give them a better idea of how to structure their arguments and avoid reaching to mistaken conclusions and forming false beliefs.

To summarize, his many contributions to the theory of knowledge, formal and informal logic and the theory of learning make Rosen Lyutskanov a very serious and well-qualified candidate for the position of Associated Professor in Theory of Knowledge who is capable to offer his knowledge and skills to the students.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical notes or recommendations for the candidate.

7. Personal impression about the candidate

In my joint work with Assoc. Prof. Rosen Lyutskanov, as well as in view of my observations of his research (e.g. conferences in which we participated together) and other academic activities (e.g. the reviews and opinions written by him in regards to the work of our colleagues), I have the impression that he is an excellent and productive researcher who is passionate about conducting his inquiry and possesses a sharp mind and creative thought. Lyutskanov has an impeccable academic ethics and has left the impression on me of an exemplary professor and scientist.

8. Conclusion about the application

After having familiarized myself with the materials and scientific works presented by the applicant for the position and based on the analysis of their significance and the theoretical and applied scientific contributions contained in them, **I confirm** that the scientific achievements of Lyutskanov fully meet the requirements of ЗРАСРБ, ППЗРАСРБ and Правилника за условията и реда за придобиване на научни степени и заемане на академични длъжности в СУ „Св. Климент Охридски“ (ПУРПНСЗАДСУ) [Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"].

In particular, the candidate **satisfies** 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 **positive evaluation** for his application.

II. General Conclusion

Based on the above evaluation, I **recommend** the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority for the selection of the **Philosophy Faculty of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"** to approve the application and to choose **Associate Professor Dr. Rosen Lyutskanov** for the academic position of **"Associate Professor"** in professional direction **2.3. Philosophy (Theory of knowledge)**.

19.09.2024 г.

Opinion submitted by:
(Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Elchinov)