

REVIEW

About Rosen Lyubomirov Lutskanov, Assoc. Prof. Dr., participant in a competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (*Theory of Knowledge*), announced for the needs of the Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Silviya Kristeva, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen Lutskanov is the only candidate in the announced competition for associate professor. The competition procedure was followed correctly, detailed and complete documents were submitted, systematized and in a form convenient for review.

It should be noted that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen Lutskanov is participating in a new competition for “Associate Professor”, in which he enters with a complete new set of presented scientific publications and achievements. He has been an associate professor since 2014 at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology – BAS, and to date has a total of 70 publications in the fields of logic, philosophy of mathematics, analytical philosophy, theory of knowledge, numerous competent and popular translations for the philosophical audience. Assoc. Prof. Lutskanov also has extensive teaching experience at three universities in disciplines in his fields and related to the scientific specialty of the announced competition. He participated in a number of national and international research projects. He has participated in numerous authoritative international and national forums. All this testifies to the intensive research and academic activity of Assoc. Prof. Lutskanov, who has proven himself to be an established scientist, researcher and academic teacher in the field of philosophical knowledge and in the field of the scientific specialty of the competition.

Assoc. Prof. Rosen Lutskanov participated in the competition with two monographs and thirteen articles. He presented a peer-reviewed and published habilitation monograph in an authoritative scientific publishing house. The articles are on the topic and in the novelty and direction of the announced scientific field, published in authoritative scientific journals and collections. The presented publications and data and evidence for the other criteria fully cover the national scientometric requirements under Art. 2b of ZRASRB for the academic position “Associate Professor”, as well as the additional requirements of Sofia University.

The monograph “Epistemology of Disagreement” introduces the innovative thematic area of social epistemology for Bulgarian philosophical research, which R. Lutskanov

condenses and develops in the scope of the other publications presented. The approach is systematic and sustained in the analytical style, clear and provocative examples from which immediate problems are derived. The disagreement is centered as a systematic entrance to a broader presentation of the topics and tools of social epistemology, from a truly fundamental problem for the plurality of opinions and the freedom to express them, but also from a deeply pushed and professed by R. Lutskanov defense and structuring of the rationalist stance and rationality. The very study of the epistemic situation of choice, expression and declaration of beliefs and their grounds is actually a deeply democratic and real socializing situation and a type of rationalist procedure of argumentation, free equal discourse and consensus finding. The search for the rational position and heuristic solutions is a trend and approach that unites the overall theme of the presented monograph and publications on the competition and the scientific specialty – the aspiration to derive a formal solution, rational procedure and reflexivity, finding new solutions, new formulations and working models. R. Lutskanov builds a comprehensive presentation of the epistemic analysis of the problem of disagreement by covering its various definitions to the basicity of the situation in the announcement of different, contradictory sharpened and announced as convincing opinions/statements. R. Lutskanov develops a detailed analysis of the reasonableness brought into a rationalistic approach to the positions in the disagreement, consistently condensing an epistemic theory of argumentation in the real clash and exchange of the persuasiveness of the clashing opinions. R. Lutskanov convincingly brings out the principle of pluralism against the „singularity thesis“ – the necessary occupation of a single convincing and last, of course, rationally justified position. That is why the epistemic conditions of group disagreement and group consensus have been examined, while the position of the other, the foreign opinion in the discourse of the disagreement has been defended and the position of moderate non-conciliationism and the principle of equality have been derived, as basic conditions for the legitimacy and validity of the disagreement and as its epistemic values.

Very interestingly conceived and undeniably valuable and useful for modern Bulgarian philosophy is the second monograph “Manual of Critical Thinking”. The monograph can indeed be viewed, but also involved in active and academic teaching and research work, as a guide to critical thinking and an epistemologically oriented platform of logical theory and argumentation theory. These two areas, thematically related both in origin and development, turn out to be centered and possible for common presentation from the main element of the argument – as a logical, linguistic and polemical-discursive structure organized through logical and rhetorical forms, but in a living, polemical and pragmatic status. The argument gives an interesting point of view to the problems of inference, as R. Lutskanov demonstrates from this structure to a

certain extent the equivalence of the three types of inference and thus from an epistemological position convincingly reinforces the role of inductive and analogical inferences involved in the contextual and new organizational role of placement of theses and their foundation. Very interesting from the living practice of thinking, debate and the spectrum of speech acts are the comprehensively presented forms, rational figures and concepts, stylistic figures and types of errors in a comprehensive picture of argumentative and rhetorical practice and experience. In my opinion, the monograph would gain a little more philosophical force by including an aspect to the origin of the critical method and the imposition of the term, of course with Kant's philosophical work, and in general with criticality in the exposition and construction of philosophical theses and refutations.

As a meta-level elevation of the general epistemic theme of the relation thesis – argumentation, convictions/beliefs – levels of expression, I appreciate the research work of R. Lutskanov on the decisions theory. With this, R. Lutskanov constituted a consistently developed direction towards the search for solutions for the algorithmization of epistemological and socio-behavioral problems with a view to the current and fascinating modern search heuristic problems and methodology of intelligent systems. Overall, R. Lutskanov's results offer an overview and formalized solutions to the modeling of axiomatic systems to advance and work adequately with multiplicity, in mastering the alternatives and contexts that accompany choice in decision-making. This approach is heuristic precisely with its rationalization – at the axiomatic knowledge and categorical basis for modeling the choice situation while preserving the possibilities for different conduct of the choice. Here, an original contribution is a presentation of “agent modalities” as applying a new grid for layering the possible in the approach to a “metaphysics of modality” in which the possible is accompanied by degrees of necessity as the “promise” that stakes a strong a moment of “can” and a necessary seeming but impending happening. Here again, R. Lutskanov defends a heuristic thesis of convergence and types of combinations of traditional modalities beyond their pure and isolated application.

The proposed and developed epistemic, formal-logical and socio-ontological approaches to multiplicity result in R. Lutskanov in the developed conceptual base and in the theory of learning and memory, taken in its applicability and application to intelligent systems. R. Lutskanov competently presents his starting point – Marvin Minsky's views on knowledge and learning and his concept of the “Society of Mind”. The connection between Whitehead's processual-philosophical concept of knowledge and learning as an organismic creation of unities, and Minsky's theory of knowledge and disassembly of the knowledge processual, “fluid and multiple” nature in multiple rational, epistemic agents – in the perception of the objects,

against the fixity of the world, for the process of learning in a K-line of mental states. The heuristic solutions of R. Lutskanov are in the new “conceptualization of artificial neural networks” with the application of the model of hierarchy and the search for internal structuredness, which evolves and can master and modify the work with data according to the model of pluralistic self-agents. This is also a significant contribution and deepening of the topic of machine learning and its successful formalization, of decision theory and, in general, of the design of artificial intelligence for Bulgarian philosophical research.

In conclusion: I agree with the scientific contributions presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen Lutskanov, which are demonstrated through the research results in his publications. Overall, the proven scientific contributions, the presented and realized research and academic activity of Rosen Lyubomirov Lutskanov, which meets the criteria for occupying the academic position of “Associate Professor” and demonstrated competence, coverage and depth in the subject of the scientific specialty, give me grounds as a member of the scientific jury convinced to support his candidacy and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” to choose him as an “Associate Professor” in professional field 2.3. Philosophy (*Theory of Knowledge*).

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Silviya Kristeva