

Opinion
for the dissertation of Enyo Stoyanov
"Invention and Literature in Contemporary Theory"
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Enyo Stoyanov's dissertation "Invention and Literature in Contemporary Theory" deals with a seemingly less defined and not systematically commented concept than invention, but it manages to see and bring out its essential role in terms of shaping many of the concepts contemporary theory works with, starting with perhaps the most significant and most problematic of them—that of literature.

A strong feature of the dissertation is that it does not explore invention in isolation but in a network with other concepts: mimesis, fiction, tradition, innovation, modernity, and historicity. In this way we are able to see the interconnectedness and mutual influence between theoretical concepts and to see how change in one of them transforms the others.

Each chapter critically comments on the views of an individual theorist or a number of theorists in relation to invention. However, the work does not break down into articles, but is a coherent text because explores problems which are specific for the whole thesis.

One of these problems is how to describe the invention so that we do not fall into the trap of essentialist talk about it, so that we do not begin to trivially present it as synonymous with the new without critically making sense of this "new." In the chapter devoted to Derrida's views on invention, Enyo Stoyanov raises this problem very sharply. Yes, the invention presupposes the presence of the new; it is a violation of some previously established rule, but by transgressing that very rule, it is defined by it. Thus the new turns out to be in fact expected and not entirely surprising. The problem of invention is how to free it from this precondition.

Each chapter of the text actually seeks a solution to this problem. Because this is the problem of the possibility of the other and the future. Doesn't the other often turn out to be provided by the same? How can the other achieve its own territory?

The chapters in this dissertation devoted to individual theorists are not reconstructions of their ideas. They are above all a critical reassessment, asking unexpected questions that "blow up" their views from within, making them "pronounce" things we are not used to hearing from them.

I confidently recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to propose to Enyo Stoyanov to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

03. 09. 2024

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