

OPINION

By Assos. Prof. PhD Kristiyan Rusev Enchev, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Section "Ontology and Epistemology", habilitated in professional direction 2.3 Philosophy, on scientific works for participation in a competition for the academic position "professor" in professional direction 2.3. Philosophy, BF, Department of Fine Arts – NBU, announced in SG no. 47/04.06.2024, with the candidate Associate Professor DSc Boyan Krasimirov Manchev

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

Associate Professor Boyan Manchev is the only candidate in this competition for a professor at the Department of Fine Arts – NBU. The candidate significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements set by the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements of the NBU.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author

The monographic study "World and Freedom. Transcendental Philosophy and Modal Ontology" *hypercritically* mobilizes Kantian transcendentalism, intervenes in it transversally and introduces metacritical positings through the 'conceptual characters' Solomon Maimon and Gilles Deleuze. The stake of this work is *metacritical* - deriving "unactualized semantic valences" from Kant's critical postulates and stretching the system to "its limit validity", to the "hypothetical limit" of the semantic potency of the Kantian system, but this stake is also *hypercritical*, in so far as it is an intensity 'potentially and hypothetically transcending this marginal validity into a 'mode of conceptual mobilization' (p. 29). In my own terminology, this is an "illustricturative" move (combination of restriction – "stricture", and leaping over this restriction – "illustration"; the latter was introduced by Boyan Manchev in "The Body-Metamorphosis"). Leaping is a mobilization of resources, a transformative resistance (I would add: (re/trans/figuring). And, ultimately, "self-reliance of the world" as freedom: "Freedom is not internal otherness, but the power that makes the world world in its own transcendence" (p. 598). **A very important point in Boyan Manchev's monograph is the "refiguration" of Maimon's "differentials" as "transversal transcendentals"**. Hence the introduction of "subjectivity before the subject" is on a materialistic level - the irreducible layer of things as "flowing", as "processes" is a breakthrough in the transcendental from the things themselves, which are active in the direction of the subject, which individuates and forms in a "processual dynamology".

Making the transition from *metacriticism* to *hypercriticism* is an essential contribution in the candidate's monographic work. In the plan of a "supercritical realism", the leaping over, the self-overcoming of the world is realized by freedom in the mode of "ontology of necessary being" (and as such - modal ontology) (ibid.). And here, perhaps, is the place to point out another important point: the introduction of *counterpurposiveness* and *metacausality* as experimental concepts. The

counterpurposiveness (Zweckwidrigkeit) of the imagination in view of the sublime of Kant's *Third Critique* takes on a new dimension: insofar as it "also names the disproportion of the faculty of imagination to the idea of reason"; "counterpurposive is that which is both against the interest of the senses and (at least apparently) against the interest of reason" (p. 182). Counterpurposiveness is coupled in relation to the terrifying and is thought of by Manchev as two types of terrifying: "the terrifying power of raw nature" and the terrifying violence that the monopolist of legitimate violence - Reason, exerts on the senses" (p. 185). "The immanent inner dimension of the sublime abyss has a double effect: on the one hand as a violence against sense experience or image/representation, and on the other –as the horror caused by the reflection of the abyss itself, facing itself" (p.186). This "two-faced" abyss is the open field for foundation, foundationless foundation, double collapse and subjectivation in the reflection of the abyss on itself. From this unimaginable and inherent heterosimultaneity springs the possibility of freedom: freedom is a contingent necessity and a necessity that happens in an absolute way. **Thus, meta-causality and anti-purposiveness find a target in freedom, which – an undoubted contributing point in Manchev's monograph – is thought of in a hypercritical way, namely as self-overcoming and actualization of transformative potentials, as endurance in change.** The world is no longer merely a phenomenal world of sense experience, it makes a self-surpassing breakthrough in the transcendental field and makes it possible to think the transversal transcendentals as active "nuclei" or rather as force fields at the micro-transcendental level. I think that in this perspective outlined by the candidate, the question of *the transcendental of the transcendental* as an experimental concept of a dynamic ontology can also be raised.

The "implantation" in the transcendental "body" of the ideogenetic theory of Krasimir Manchev by Boyan Manchev is a perhaps risky move, which, however, finds solid justification in the book "World and Freedom". Kant's hypercritical mobilization "crystallizes", according to Boyan Manchev, "under the influence of (...) ideogenetic theory": the metacritical examination of modalities needs their critical theory (p. 266). Ideogenetic theory is a "catalyst" for transforming the transcendental. **Contributory point: operational linguistics can offer a reliable "optical instrument" so that the "scope" in the transcendental can activate its potentiality so that we think of it as an active potency, and one that bridges the gap between the phenomenal and the noumenal, without depersonalizing them in a process of integration, but connecting them from the side of freedom as a world transcending itself, inseparable from reason and in accordance with "the supercritical 'interest of reason' to resist the transcendental principle as a modal principle"**. It is interesting here how the transmodalities are used in the body of Kant's system. "The ideogenetic category of transmodality (...) would allow, more generally, to grasp the modal energy of Kantian categories, their function as intellectual transmodal concepts" (p. 568). The release of the energetic moment of the modalities is an actualization of potentialities, but I would add: *it is possible for this release to become effective within a model*. The modal explication of transmodalities is indicative insofar as it only points to networks of positional references between modalities and thus leaves remodeling as a potentiality. The guidance was born with the vision, the target from the ideogenetic theory, transformatively assimilated in Boyan Manchev's paradigm. **With this proposal, I humbly offer the candidate food for thought regarding the relationship between modelity and modality.**

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications (creative performances) made after the appointment of the academic position "associate professor"

Boyan Manchev is the author of thirteen books in Bulgarian, French, English and Italian, as well as nearly three hundred studies and articles published in Bulgarian, French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Swedish, Serbian, Slovenian and other languages. Since 2011, he has been an associate professor in the field of 2.3 Philosophy, at the Department of "Art Studies and History of Culture" at the New Bulgarian University. In his monograph "Freedom in spite of everything" (2020), presented and discussed in the Goethe-Institut library by Miglena Nikolchina, Dimitar Vatsov, Ognyan Kasabov, Darin Tenev, Bojana Filipova and Bogdana Pascaleva, Manchev raises the thesis of existence as "an unconditional dynamic condition" and positing Kantian reason as "the name of the enduring, that is, expanding actuality, event of existence" (p. 412), which is an undoubted contribution to the (re)conceptualization of Kantian critical metaphysics as a dynamic ontology. This thesis is also present in his monograph "World and Freedom. Transcendental Philosophy and Modal Ontology" (where operationality is also introduced as a dynamic category, such as 'potency in action', which supercritically expands the scope of Manchev's own paradigm). In *The Logic of the Political* (2012), freedom is both an opportunity for change and an opportunity for resistance. Resistance plays an essential role here through the body-subject as an "agent (operator) of resistance" (p. 247). Already in this work, Boyan Manchev raises the original thesis that the transformation of the body-subject, thus becoming a subject, must be *transversal*. From here, Manchev thinks the proximity of transversality with the concepts of *endurance* and *transformation of transformation*, the Gattarian concept of *transversality* is involved in a network of experimental concepts, bringing to the fore the political in relation to freedom as the release of resistance, as endurance in the change of the subject, being "metamorphic continuum" (ibid.). This could be (thought of as) a revolutionary action - the thetic in this monograph in an original way weaves into its fabric a polyphony, which, however, agrees and speaks in a new language (**an undoubted contribution point**): it is the language of freedom as an active potency, or, as I would phrase it, (active) *potentializing of potentialities*.

3. Quoting by other authors

Boyan Manchev is an author whose works have been cited in over 70 prestigious domestic and international scientific publications. Boyan Manchev is an internationally recognized author, he worked in close collaboration with the famous French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy. His publications are recognizable at home and abroad, our and foreign authors step on his theoretical philosophical works.

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the obtained results in practice

Boyan Manchev is an associate of a scientific group developing the model of dynamic ontology – Boyan Manchev, Dimitar Vatsov (NBU), Darin Tenev (SU), Kristiyan Enchev (BAS) – within the scientific group, Boyan Manchev presents his concept of dynamic ontology; the practical application of the obtained theoretical results of his work within the framework of this creative project is a publication in issue of the magazine "Critique and Humanism" (2020/2).

III. Learning and teaching activity

1. Auditory and non-auditory employment, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU", provision of student practices and internships, work with students and doctoral students

- In the last 5 years - scientific supervisor of students at the MP "Comparative art studies": Eva-Maria Ivanova, Veneta Videlova, Smilyan Todorov; to the MP "Language and Publicity. Philosophical and sociological approaches": Lyubomir Yonchev; to BP "Philosophy": Isabel Nesheva; to MP "American Studies": Kalina Krivachkova, Borislava Manova.
- Boyan Manchev is the author of the following educational materials at NBU: HACB710 Seminar "Contemporary Art and Culture"; HACB139 Philosophy of Image; MABM230 Contemporary cultural policies in the USA and Great Britain;
- Exhibition "Territories of the gaze" with the participation of students from NBU in the "Vaska Emanuilova" Gallery at the Sofia City Art Gallery (December 2016 - February 2017). The exhibition project was initiated by Associate Professor Dr. Boyan Manchev and the curator Vladia Mihailova and carried out under their guidance by the curatorial team of students.

2. Student survey scores

The average grade from the student surveys for the last ten semesters of Associate Professor Boyan Manchev is excellent 4.87 (max 5.00).

IV. Administrative and public activity

1. Participation in collective management bodies of the NBU

Participation in the program board of the Department "Art Studies and History of Culture" at the NBU; member of the program board of the "Fine Arts" department at the NBU since November 2023; member of the NBU Academic Council.

2. Public activity

Boyan Manchev is involved as a theoretician, dramatist or performer in the projects of theater directors, choreographers and visual artists. Together with Ani Vaseva and Leonid Yovchev, he is a co-founder of Meteor - "a group of like-minded people who work with artistic and experimental theoretical forms, consistently building their radical poetics".

V. Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)

More than ten years ago, I started reading Boyan Manchev's works and in many of them I recognized reference points for my own philosophical pursuits, for me these works were a source

of inspiration and a tool for opening new horizons. Books-tools through which I researched other books. Since 2018, Boyan Manchev and I have been in a fruitful creative dialogue together with Darin Tenev and Dimitar Vatsov. Our conversation on the topic "How is dynamic ontology done today?" was an opportunity for me to get feedback on aspects of dynamic ontologization that excite me within the framework of this "school" initiated by Boyan Manchev. Boyan Manchev is a reviewer of my latest book – "Potentiality and Figure"; it has an appendix entitled "Desire at the Limits of Impossible Experience", inspired by the reviewer's understanding of co-impossible surfaces set forth in his monograph "The Unimaginable" and transformatively assimilated into the body of my proposed book. The construction of the concept of "illustructure", put into use both in individual articles of mine and in my latest book, lean on the concept of "illustration", introduced by Manchev in "The Body-Metamorphosis".

VI. Conclusion

With that comments, notes and recommendations I vote **"YES"** and **strongly recommend** to the respected Academic Council of the NBU to award Boyan Krasimirov Manchev the academic position "professor" in professional direction 2.3. Philosophy, BF, Department of Fine Arts – NBU, announced in SG no. 47/04.06.2024.

Sofia,
11.09.2024

Assoc. Prof. Kristiyan Enchev