

OPINION

By: Ramachandran Bharath, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Northern Michigan University

Regarding: The application of the following candidates for habilitation as **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** according to the Bulgarian legislation at the American University in Bulgaria in Area of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences in Professional Field 3.8 Economics. The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette issue dated September 9, 2014, issue 75.

Candidate: **Tamara Todorova**

I present the evaluation below in my capacity as a member of the Habilitation Jury appointed for the above mentioned procedure by a letter of the AUBG President dated November 6, 2014 and according to a Decision of AUBG dated June 6, 2014. My evaluation is based on the *Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act*, the Rules for its implementation, the internal AUBG rules, regulations, and policies, including the *Habilitation Procedure* and the habilitation procedure advertisement on the AUBG website.

Evaluation of the Applicants

*The evaluation is carried out according to the **Primary Indicators** and **Additional Indicators** included in the document **Guidelines for the Habilitation Jury**.*

I. Basis for Evaluation

Please indicate on what information this evaluation is based - documents submitted by the Candidate, professional activities, publications

- 1) **The abstracts of refereed publications submitted by the candidate – abstracts conform to academic standards and demonstrate the rigor of the candidate’s research. All refereed publications reflect Prof. Todorova’s interest in new institutional economics, mathematical economics and microeconomics. All abstracts show her research is related to the position for Associate Professor opened by the AUBG.**

2) The research and publications self-evaluation of the candidate

By looking at these I am fully satisfied that the candidate more than fulfills the requirements for habilitation as an Associate Professor. The publications are in reputable and well recognized journals. More specifically, her recent paper “The Tragedy of the Private: Transaction Cost Considerations” is published in 2014 in the prestigious International Journal of Social Economics. Her paper “The Coase Theorem Revisited: Implications for Economic Transition,” was published in 2007 in

the Atlantic Economic Journal, a high-ranking field journal. Her paper “The State as an Instrument of Transaction-cost Economies,” published in Problems of Economic Transition in 2011, is focused on transitional economies and discusses the role of the state in the market economy.

3) The description of teaching and the teaching evaluations of the candidate.

The evaluations are very high level and more than adequate for a person being considered for habilitation as an Associate Professor. Prof. Todorova uses innovative methods of teaching such as PPT presentations, video projections, Excel regression analysis, Blackboard, etc. She has reached a level of excellence in her teaching far beyond the requirements of a student-centered environment. Prof. Todorova is truly dedicated to students as evident from her Problems Book which is a teaching-oriented monograph. She as well has a number of pedagogical papers focused on the teaching of the economics subject to undergraduates. She offers regular tutorials with the purpose of stimulating student learning.

II. Eligibility

1. Please fill it out the enclosed **Eligibility Checklist** (Enclosure 1) and submit together with your Opinion. It combines eligibility conditions set forth in the Law and the University regulations.
2. Please state your opinion with regard to the Candidate's eligibility.

I consider the candidate fully eligible for habilitation as Associate Professor.

III. Areas of Research of the Candidate. Evaluation of the Contributions of the Candidate.

1. Please describe the principal areas of the Candidate's research.
new institutional economics, economics in transition, mathematical economics, microeconomics, and international trade

2. Please fill out the enclosed **Additional Requirements list** (Enclosure 2) and submit it with your opinion. Include here a statement whether the Candidate's areas of research correspond to the specific requirements of the current procedure.

Yes, in my opinion the candidate's areas of research are appropriate for habilitation as Associate Professor. More specifically, the papers “The Tragedy of the Private: Transaction Cost Considerations,” “The State as an Instrument of Transaction Cost Economies,” “Vertical Integration in High-transaction Cost Sectors,” etc. are clearly oriented to both transition and the role of institutions. Two papers, “The Protective

Effect of an Import Quota: Some Welfare Considerations,” and “World Demand as a Determinant of Immiserizing Growth” are strictly focused on international trade theory. The papers “Solving Optimal Timing Problems Elegantly,” “An Easy Way to Solve Simple Differential and Difference Equations” are focused on the teaching of mathematical economics. Her papers on optimization, “Optimal Work Effort and Monitoring Cost, “Optimal Work Effort, Income and Wage,” “The Economic Dynamics of Inflation and Unemployment,” etc., use the tools of differential calculus in economic modelling.

3. *Please include focused evaluation, according to Primary and Additional Indicators, of the Candidate’s major theoretical and applied results and contributions.*

Prof. Todorova’s primary research is in the field of new institutional economics, transaction cost theory, institutional analysis, and market failure. This is extremely important to the course of transition and economic development of Eastern Europe. Some of her major achievements are the thorough knowledge of the Coase theorem as it applies to Eastern European countries, the discussion of former socialist countries as high-transaction societies, her explanation of the transitional failures in the region which, in effect, are market failures resulting from excessively high costs of private transacting, her comparison of East European countries with western economies. While in the latter all work is done by the market, in the former everything is done by the state due to historical, cultural and behavioral differences.

IV. Evaluation of the Candidate’s teaching

1. *Please include short evaluation according to the Additional Indicators related to teaching, with emphasis on teaching in recognized liberal arts institutions and student-centered approach.*

The teaching evaluations are high. I may mention that I have personal experience of observing her style of teaching when I sat in on two of her lectures in September 2014. I attended one class in International Trade, ECO214, and one in Quantitative Methods in Economics, ECO300. In International Trade Prof. Todorova was covering the specific-factor model discussing the mobility of labor from one industry to another. In the other class she covered the rules of differentiation. I saw in her class that she pauses from time to time to allow students to ask questions before she proceeds further, and takes care to answer them carefully and fully. She graphed meticulously on the board using two different colors and explaining every point. Even the elementary student without a background in economics can understand her explanations.

2. *Please indicate your opinion as to whether the Candidate’s areas of teaching correspond to the **Additional Requirements** (Enclosure 2) set forth by AUBG for this procedure.*

Yes, in my opinion the candidate's areas of teaching correspond fully to the requirements.

3. *Please state your opinion with regard to the correspondence between the overall teaching experience of the Candidate and the specific requirements of the current procedure.*

In my opinion the overall teaching experience of the candidate fulfil the specific requirements for habilitation as Associate Professor.

V. Major critical notes and recommendations

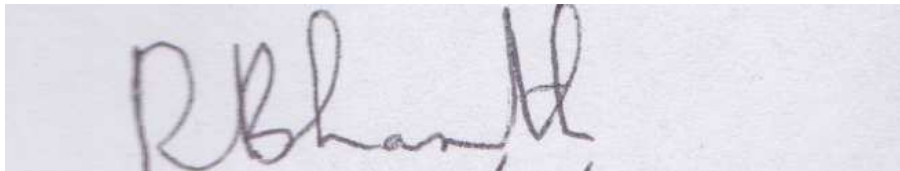
I have no special recommendations to make.

VI. Conclusion:

1. *Appropriateness to the specific requirements of the American University in Bulgaria*
In my opinion, fully appropriate.
2. *Recommendation "for" or "against" habilitation*
I recommend FOR habilitation.

By signing here I also declare that writing this opinion does not represent conflict of interest.

Signature and date: December 10, 2014



Eligibility Checklist

Name of the Candidate: **Tamara Todorova**

Applying for habilitation as: **Associate Professor at the American University in Bulgaria according to announcement in State Gazette, issue № 75, dated 9 September 2014**

In Professional Field: **3.8 Economics**

Check below what applies. Sign and submit together with your review

- ☐ The Candidate has Ph.D; **Yes**
- ☐ The Candidate has served five years as (Senior) Assistant Professor (for applicants for Associate Professor) or six years as Associate Professor (for applicants to Full Professor) at a recognized academic institution; **Yes**
- ☐ The Candidate has published a monograph or publications of equal standing in specialized journals. These should not repeat publications based on which Ph. D., or Doctor of Science degree, or Associate Professor Rank was granted; **Yes**
- ☐ The Candidate has experience from recognized academic liberal arts institution(s); **Yes**
- ☐ The Candidate has experience in student-centered teaching approach; **Yes**
- ☐ The Candidate has undergone at least one successful evaluation in teaching, research and service at a recognized academic liberal arts institution, including positive student evaluations of teaching. **Yes**
- ☐ The Candidate has experience in teaching in English at a higher education institution with instruction in English language. **Yes**
- ☐ AUBG can ensure teaching and research load according to its internal rules and regulations. **Yes**
- ☐ **All the facts regarding candidate working for six years, having undergone successful evaluation etc. have been verified from the office of the Provost, American University in Bulgaria.**
- ☐ Date: December 10, 2014



Additional Requirements

For Associate Professor Academic Position in Professional Field 3.8 Economics

Additional specifications: **new institutional economics, economics in transition, mathematical economics, microeconomics, and international trade**

Name of the Candidate: **Tamara Todorova**

Check below what applies. Sign and submit together with your review or opinion.

Research

The Candidate has conducted research in the following areas:

- ☐ New institutional economics; **Yes**
- ☐ Economics of reform and transition; **Yes**
- ☐ Mathematical economics; **Yes**
- ☐ Microeconomics; **Yes**
- ☐ International trade. **Yes**

Teaching

The Candidate has teaching experience in the following areas:

- ☐ New institutional economics; **Yes**
- ☐ mathematical economics; **Yes**
- ☐ microeconomics; **Yes**
- ☐ managerial economics; **Yes**
- ☐ economics of reform and transition; **Yes**
- ☐ international trade; **Yes**
- ☐ industrial organization. **Yes**

Signature and date:

December 10, 2014

