

NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY – SOFIA
DEPARTMENT OF NEW BULGARIAN STUDIES

Evaluation Statement

by Associate Professor Yordan Yordanov Kosturkov, PhD, member of the academic committee, The *Paissii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv, Department of British and American Studies, Professor of American Literature

on the PhD Dissertation Project *Dreiser as a Steady Critic of Social Injustice*, submitted by Doctoral Student Mihrije Maloku-Morina aspiring to be awarded a Doctoral Degree in Anglophone Literature

A Summary

The Dissertation addresses a topic of significant revived interest in American literary criticism today – the evolving new appeal of the work of Theodore Dreiser and the social commitment in his novels. The traditions of the American novel from the early twentieth century, the spirit of the effort of the generation of the Muckrakers to expose corruption and social evil today have become again critically important and their literary work has a new appeal. The choice of the topic definitely is a success of the author as well as the method of discussing all relevant problems.

The author of the Dissertation has conducted serious research and has documented it in additional publications, as well as incorporating all observations and analyses in the body of the academic work. The principal academic requirements of the relevant legislation and regulations have been observed and the Doctoral Student has presented to the members of the academic committee a solid piece of literary work and a study of significance.

The Conclusion of the Dissertation contains a list of all the scholarly achievements and contributions well motivated and explained – as they are available in the text of the Dissertation.

The apparatus is adequate, the author is well familiar with the major publications on the topic. The text is organically structured and supported by reference to sources, citing appropriately authorities on the author and his work.

The author of the Dissertation deserves praise for the quality of the academic language

used and the fact that the Dissertation has been composed in English has its special merits as I would recommend that the text be either published in a print volume or at least parts of it are presented at conferences and any other academic venues. This speaks to the effect that the observations and conclusions will certainly appeal to scholars working on the same or related problematics.

In conclusion I voice my full support of the Dissertation presented and declare in this Statement of Evaluation the work deserves positive grade, while recommending all members of the academic committee to confer the Doctoral Student the academic degree of PhD.

February 17, 2021

Signed, Yordan Kosturkov