

# OPINION

**on a dissertation "Detectives, Spies, Cold War: Crime Fiction and Spy Literature in Comparative Perspective" by Maurice Fadel**

for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science"

**in the Area of Professional Specialization 2.1 Philology,**

Department for New Bulgarian Studies

by Assoc. Prof. Maria Ogoyska, PhD,

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"Detectives, Spies, Cold War: Crime Fiction and Spy Literature in Comparative Perspective" is a comparative study of the relationship between two literary genres - crime and spy narratives - which emerge in the epoch of modernity and to some extent define it.

The first part is dedicated to the peculiarities of the classical crime literature. In it is analyzed the resistance of the detective fiction towards the aesthetic dimension of literature by maintaining a constant subversion of the reader's identification through a suspicion, which encompasses all elements of the text, including the author.

The second part is connected with the Bulgarian literature at the beginning of the communist regime. A subject of discussion is Pavel Vezinov's novel "The Blue Sunset" - it is bound to noir rather than to classical crime fiction. The study reveals how this novel represents suppressed by the regime beginning of the crime fiction in Bulgaria.

The third part focused on a genre that attracts a large readership in communist Bulgaria. It is called the "intelligence-adventure genre".

In this section of the study the thesis is convincingly defended that the large part of crime literature has rather game characteristics and refers to the high spheres of the literary culture of different countries.

From the general literary-historical theoretical problems the researcher throughout skillfully makes a natural transition to the Bulgarian situation in the genre.

The contribution in the fourth part of the study is very important. In this chapter Assoc. Prof. Fadel makes successful summaries of the central question of the extent to which this crime socialist-realist literature really belongs to mass culture.

The theoretical statements of the most weighty literary researchers are used as a basis for the text, such as Siegfried Kracauer, Paul de Man, Luc Boltanski, Carlo Ginsburg, Gyorgy Lukacs, Tzvetan Todorov, Nikolay Aretov, Plamen Doynov, etc.

The research is provided with an excellently arranged representative bibliography, both of the theoretical works and of the literary-historical works, as well as of the presented and researched novels themselves.

I am confidently voting for the award of the degree of "Doctor of Science", in the Area of Professional Specialization 2.1 Philology to Assoc. Prof. Maurice Fadel, PhD.

31.05.2022

Assoc. Prof. Maria Ogoyska, PhD