

# R E V I E W

by Assoc. Prof. Maria Ogoyska, PhD,

New Bulgarian University,

Member of the Jury for Granting the Academic Position

“Associate Professor” in the Area of Professional Specialization 2.1 Philology,

Department for New Bulgarian Studies, Announced in SG, issue 109/ 21.12.2021 with

Candidate Bilyana Kourtasheva, Ph.D

Bilyana Kourtasheva's habilitation thesis, entitled “On the Edge of Comparison. Yavorov and the Rolling Stones, and other Im/Possible Intertexts”, contains a theoretical introduction and 16 texts in which the author explores the boundaries of intertextuality.

The study insists that it wants to examine the theoretical and practical limits and possibilities of intertextuality today using examples from both Bulgarian and world literature.

Since its introduction, the book proposes a possible intertextual genealogy of intertextuality by reading Julia Kristeva's idea of the communication between texts beyond any authorial intentions and influences alongside two other iconic texts: Roland Barthe's “The Death of the Author” and Michel Foucault's „What is an Author“, and many others authors and writings. I focus especially on the following texts: “The Infernal City: Geo Milev between Dante and London”, “Dalchev: Policy of Maturity in the Shadow of Geo Milev”, “The Trials of Self Identity: I, Anna Komnina, the Centaur Novel”, “Event and Empathy: Sylvia Plath”.

Applying the intertextual approach is an extremely difficult and delicate work, which B. Kourtasheva exercises extremely well. As unexpected as her original analyzes and literary-historical stories might be, they become more and more convicting in the process of their realization. It is clear that although the choice to compose the intertexts was made by the author's will, the work of obtaining and clarifying new meanings on the “primary” text was not random.

It is in this fruitful oscillation between the paradigms of native and foreign literary studies is the great success in the interpretive approaches of Dr. B. Kourtasheva.

The habilitation work and the further research is a proof of the candidate's qualities. I give my positive vote for Bilyana Kourtasheva to be awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor".

8.05.2022

Assoc. Prof. Maria Ogoyska, PhD