КИРИЛО - МЕТОДИЕВСКИ
НАУЧЕН ЦЕНТЪР - БАН
Вх. № 118 КО-05-05
Дата 19.10.2026

SHORT REVIEW
by Dr. Tatyana Dimova Slavova, DSc.,
Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Member of the Scientific Jury appointed by Order No 63-1 RD-16/ 04.09.2026
of the Director of the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre
at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
for the competition to hold the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology,
opened for the needs of the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre - BAS,
announced in the State Gazete No. 61/ 03.07.2026

The sole candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor is senior Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Ivanov Iliev – a graduate of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", holding a Bachelor's degree in Classical Philology (2004–2009) and a Master's degree in Old Bulgarian Studies (2010–2012). During the 2013–2016 period, he was a full-time PhD student at the Institute for Literature (at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), where he defended a dissertation on the topic "The Commentary on the Book of Daniel by Hippolytus of Rome in the Old Church Slavonic Translation" (published as a book in 2017, see item No. 3 in the list of publications), and obtained the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD diploma dated July 4, 2016). Dr. Ivan Iliev has had over 10 years of professional experience at the Faculty of Theology of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where he has served as Senior Assistant Professor since 2015, teaching Ancient Greek, Biblical Greek, and Latin.

As participant in the competition, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Iliev has submitted the following publications in view of the scientometric indicators for the minimum national requirements for obraining the academic position of Associate Professor: a primary habilitation work – the monograph entitled "Lives of Bulgarian Saints in the Latin Tradition" (second expanded edition, 2026, 284 pp.); 5 articles (one co-authored) and 3 studies published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus); 9 articles (two co-authored) and 4 studies (one co-authored) published in peer-reviewed, non-indexed journals or in edited collective volumes. The majority of the publications are written in English. Four of the submitted articles (Nos. 22–26 on the list) will not be taken into consideration in this review, as they pertain to the subject) of his PhD dissertation and/or were published in the period prior to the dissertation defense and prior to the candidate's appointment to the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor. Monograph No. 3 in the list (also excluded from the review are monograph No. 3), which presents the candidate's dissertation (although updated with additional sources), as well as publication No. 21, which is a part of monograph No. 3, will also not be reviewed. Nevertheless, the publication and research activity of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Iliev exceeds the minimum national requirements according to the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) for obtaining the academic position of Associate Professor (Art. 26 item 1).

Dr. Ivan Iliev's scholarly output spans the fields of Classical Studies, Biblical Studies specifically focusing on Old Testament prophetic books within the Greek and Slavic manuscript traditions, source studies and archeography, Byzantine-Slavic eschatology and apocalyptic literature, medieval Slavic and comparative Slavic-Byzantine textology, and historical etymology. Dr. Iliev's solid background in classical studies and his command of

ИНСТИТУТ - МЕТОДИЕВСКИ
НАЦ - БЕНТЕ - ЗЕРЦЕ

Ancient Greek, Latin, and Old Bulgarian define his distinctive comparative scholarly profile. His research in Palaeoslavistics is invariably positioned within the context of Ancient Greek (Byzantine) and/or Latin literature and language.

This distinctive aspect of his research focus also defines his monograph submitted as a habilitation work, entitled "Lives of Bulgarian Saints in the Latin Tradition" (2026, 284 pp., No. 1). The book's topic is highly relevant, as the subject has been only partially explored and is largely absent from Bulgarian historiography and philology, having been only partially investigated. The study focuses on the Latin translations of two hagiographies emblematic of Bulgarian hagiographic literature – that of St Paraskeva by St Patriarch Euthymius of Tarnovo and that of St Ivan of Rila. The author analyses the translations by examining the primary sources used (early printed books from the 16th and 17th centuries), the personalities and literary heritage of the translators (the Croatian enlightener Levaković and the Russian Jesuit Ivan Martynov), the dating of the translations and the reasons for their appearance, the historical context and socio-cultural environment, the archeographic tradition, as well as the linguistic (morphosyntactic and lexical) and stylistic features of the translations in comparison with their source texts. The monograph also includes editions of the two hagiographies that served as the sources for the Latin translation, alongside editions of the Latin translations themselves. The author demonstrates proficiency in working with early printed books from various book repositories, which were examined *de visu*, some of them previously unpublished and unstudied. An organic part of the monograph consists of the Old Bulgarian–Latin and Latin–Old Bulgarian glossaries compiled by Dr Ivan Iliev for each of the hagiographies (pp. 144–226, 239–282). Overall, the lemmatisation of Old Bulgarian forms therein follows the predefined and described principles (pp. 123–125), with the exception of a few minor inaccuracies (e.g., лоукавъ instead of лжкавъ, скаредъ instead of скаждъ, отъторудъ instead of отътаждъ, трънновъ instead of трьновъ, оугоднікъ instead of оугодьникъ, чѣловѣчь instead of чловѣчь, здравиє instead of съдравиє) and inconsistencies in the spelling of verbal prefixes (e.g., отходити alongside отъкрыти, прѣдстоити alongside прѣдълежати). Undoubtedly, the work sheds new light on the connections between the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic traditions in pre-Revival Bulgaria. This topic is also explored in publication No. 16.

However, the Old Testament theme – specifically the Old Bulgarian translations of the Book of Daniel, the Commentary on it by Hippolytus of Rome, and the Homily de Christo et Antichristo by the same author – occupy a central place in the scholarly work of Dr Ivan Iliev.

Several articles (Nos. 6, 13, 14, 17) related to the topic of the Ph.D. dissertation are dedicated to the Book of Daniel. These will be taken into consideration in this review because they do not replicate the dissertation work but rather build upon it, and they were published in the period following its defense, after his taking the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor. In publication No. 17, Dr Iliev summarises the six Slavic translations of the Book of Daniel that he identified, each showcasing specific translation techniques depending on the purpose and functions of the respective translation (with minor exceptions, publication No. 13 duplicates publication No. 20, but is in English translation). Plant names are another focus of Dr Ivan Iliev's scholarly (scientific) interest regarding the Book of Daniel, which he compares with Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and Old Bulgarian translations, as well as the modern Bulgarian translation of the Old Testament (No. 14). Dr Iliev's latest study of the Old Testament book is dedicated to its adaptation included in the Chronicle of Joannes Zonaras in manuscript No. 105 from the Zograf Monastery (No. 6). Following a structural, stylistic, and lexical comparison with other Slavic versions of the Book of Daniel, the author concludes that Zograf No. 105 preserves an interpretative version of this biblical book that is unique and previously unknown in both the Bulgarian and Greek traditions.

The work on the Commentary on the Book of Daniel by Hippolytus of Rome (see the summary of the Greek and Slavic manuscript traditions in publication No. 20) sparked Ivan Iliev's interest in another work by Hippolytus – on *De Christo et Antichristo*, which served as the exegetical foundation for *Commentarii in Danielem.* It is no coincidence that these two key early Christian texts by Hippolytus, both focused on eschatology and apocalyptic prophecies, are frequently transmitted as a unified corpus in the Slavic literary tradition, as established by Dr Iliev. To the Homily de Christo et Antichristo – which is of essential importance for the dogmatic foundation of the early Christian Church and was most likely translated into Old Bulgarian at the end of the 9th or the beginning of the 10th century along with the translation of the Commentary on the Book of Daniel – Dr Iliev dedicates a number of articles and studies (Nos. 9, 10, 11, 15, 19). First and foremost, demonstrating sound archeographic expertise , the author tracks down and describes 17 Slavic manuscripts dating from the 11th–12th to the 18th–19th centuries, four of which have not been previously documented in scholarly literature and present new evidence on Slavic translations (versions) of Hippolytus's two works or fragments thereof (Nos. 3, 19). These newly discovered manuscripts enrich our understanding of the reception of Hippolytus in the Slavic manuscript tradition, especially in view of the fact that to this day, there exists only a single edition of a Slavic copy of the Homily published nearly 160 years ago (Chudov 12 from the end of the 12th century, State Historical Museum, Moscow). Ivan Iliev pays special attention to the vocabulary in the translation of the *De Christo et Antichristo*, analyzing rare and specific lexemes included in biblical quotations, lexemes with unusual usage, and maritime terminology (No. 11). His in-depth lexicographical analysis identifies dozens of unique and rare lexemes, including maritime terms designating various parts of vessels and other maritime phenomena, which testify that our distant ancestors possessed some seafaring experience. Problems regarding biblical quotations in *De Christo et Antichristo* are also examined in publication No. 9, which aims to demonstrate how the translator approached biblical quotations. Dr Iliev's conclusion – that the translator did not consult extant Slavonic biblical translations but instead, translated the quotations independently – is consistent with medieval literary practice. The analysis of the vocabulary of *De Christo et Antichristo* logically led Dr Iliev to compile bilingual Slavonic-Greek and Greek-Slavonic dictionaries for the work. The results of these endeavours are presented in article No. 10, in which the author highlights the difficulties, problems, approaches, and solutions involved in compiling bilingual dictionaries, particularly in view of the scarce Greek sources for *De Christo et Antichristo*. An echo of Iliev's preoccupation with Hippolytus's works is publication No. 5, where the author's attention is drawn to the origin, dissemination, and biblical symbolism of the topos "abomination of desolation", characteristic of Slavonic historical-apocalyptic literature. Dr Iliev identifies another specific "topos" and multifaceted symbol used in biblical and para-biblical contexts in the concept of the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*, кедръ ливаньскъ); by combining textual analysis and theological exegesis, he investigates how the cedar is interpreted in various biblical texts (Hebrew, Greek, Old Bulgarian) and how these interpretations are transferred into Slavonic early Christian apocryphal literature (No. 2).

The studies and articles focusing on the Old Testament themes establish Dr Ivan Iliev as one of the proven and foremost researchers of the Slavic translations of the Book of Daniel and of Hippolytus's works, namely the *Commentary on the Book of Daniel* and *De Christo et Antichristo*, positioned within the context of the Greek manuscript and theological traditions. These publications, interdisciplinary in character, position the author as a classical philologist – both a Byzantinist and a Palaeo-Slavist – and demonstrate his high professional qualities as an archeographer, linguist, textual critic, and lexicologist in the field of Biblical Studies. A large portion of his research is multifaceted in nature and reflects his fruitful efforts to address

problems that require a complex approach, enabling an adequate response to diverse inquiries in accordance with complex theological issues. Furthermore, Dr Iliev holds the credit for introducing a number of medieval Greek and Slavic manuscripts into scientific circulation for the first time.

The widespread impact of Senior Assistant Professor Ivan Iliev's research is evidenced by the numerous (approximately 100) citations of his works in Bulgarian and foreign scholarly publications by researchers from Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Russia, Belgium, Romania, among others (according to the citation report). He has been highly active in project work, having participated in 7 research projects (3 of which are international) with diverse range of research objectives. He was awarded the "Young Scholar" grant (scholarship) by the EABS (*European Association of Biblical Studies*) in Berlin (2017), held a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2020–2022), and since 2024 has served as the Chairman of the Association for the Development of University Classical Education (ADUCE) in Bulgaria.

Dr Ivan Iliev fully meets the requirements for taking the academic position of Associate Professor in accordance with the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (Art. 24, 26 item 1), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB (Art. 53), the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Art. 2, item 4.3), and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre (Art. 2, item 4.3). This is because he holds the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD), has held the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor for over 10 years, has submitred a published monograph differing in topic and research subject from his doctoral dissertation, has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for the position of Associate Professor, and no plagiarism has been found in his works.

Therefore, I will cast a positive vote in favor and recommend the esteemed Scientific Jury to grant Senior Assistant Professor Dr Ivan Iliev the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Date: 19.10.2026 Reviewer:

Sofia (Prof. Dr. Tatyana Slavova, DSc)