

PROFESSOR DR. LÁSZLÓ I. KOMLÓSI, DR. H.C.
RECTOR'S ENVOY IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Ref.: assessment review for Doc. Alena Kačmárová
Reviewer: Prof. Dr. László I. Komlósi, external reader

Doc. Alena Kačmárová, PhD, associate professor at the Institute of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Prešov University, Slovakia has submitted her candidacy for *full professorship in the field of Non-Slavic languages 2.1.29* to the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia.

I have professionally known Dr. Kačmárová since 2008 when we first met at the Third International Brno Conference on Linguistics Studies in English. I served as the professor of English Linguistics at PF UKF being in the position of guarantor for master's programs, doctoral programs, habilitation and inauguration procedures at PF UKF between 2006 and 2014. I had the privilege of being a member of the habilitation committee for Dr. Kačmárová's habilitation in October 2012 at Prešov University.

I have always had a close academic interest in the empirically oriented pragmatic research activities of Dr. Kačmárová's, thus we have developed a fruitful cooperation in various professional domains. I had the honor of being invited as a plenary speaker at the Third International Prešov Conference on Language, Literature and Culture in a Changing Transatlantic World in 2015 which was organized by the Institute; Dr. Kačmárová being the chief organizer. Based on my active professional contacts with the colleagues in Prešov, I have been invited to be an external member of the Doctoral Board of the Institute, of which Dr. Kačmárová is a member. I had particular occasions on which Dr. Kačmárová and I were able to critically discuss important questions of theoretical linguistics, especially the issues of intercultural communication, intercultural pragmatics, the intricate relationship between language, culture and communication.

As an invited external reader for Dr. Kačmárová's inauguration process, I have been provided with the necessary documentation (inauguračný spis) both in Slovak and in English. I state in confidence that my knowledge of written Slovak is sufficient for me to understand the details of the different chapters accounting for her pedagogical and scientific/scholarly activities for the purpose of a balanced evaluation.

In what follows, I intend to focus on three aspects an internationally-oriented higher educational institution ought to expect of a would-be-professor: (i) teaching activities, (ii) research activities and (iii) science-management and science communication activities. In addition to the official documentation, I have also made use of Dr. Kačmárová's Slovak and English home pages, last updated in May 2018 <https://www.unipo.sk/filozoficka-fakulta/iaa-ff/ok/dad/ak/> and <https://www.unipo.sk/en/faculty-of-arts/ibas-ff/os/ak/>.

Teaching activities

Dr. Kačmárová was a senior lecturer between 2005-2013 and has been an associate professor (docent as a habilitated doctor) since 2013 at the Institute. She has been teaching both foundational linguistics courses (Introduction to Linguistics Studies, Academic Writing, Intercultural Communication) and courses in linguistic theory (English Morphosyntax, Introduction to Pragmalinguistics). She has written useful text-books and practical workbooks for English linguistics studies. She has also supervised four doctoral students in Translation and Interpreting who have successfully defended their doctoral theses. It is to be emphasized that she has extended experiences in international education as she has taught and carried out research in several HE institutions outside Slovakia. In summary, her achievement in the field of teaching is above the normative requirements.

Research activities

It goes without saying that high-quality teaching can only be achieved if it is supported by engaged and challenging scientific inquiries. Judging from the information sources at my disposal (and my professional acquaintance with Dr. Kačmárová), I do not hesitate to claim that her scholarly activities and achievements represent an engaged teacher and a highly committed intellectual pursuing a nationally and internationally acknowledged scholarly research in the fields of linguistics, speech behavior and verbal interpersonal communication.

Dr. Kačmárová has shown extensive project participation both as a principal investigator and a deputy project manager in almost 10 projects (COST, Cambridge Network, VEGA, KEGA, etc.). She has been a Fulbright fellow, invited lecturer, member in doctoral and habilitation boards, a peer-reviewer, opponent in doctoral and habilitation procedures and an active participant at international conferences. Dr. Kačmárová has published monographs and around 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers during her career. In summary, her achievement in the field of research and scholarly activities is well above the normative requirements.

Science-management and science communication activities

Dr. Kačmárová does not work in isolated solitude: she is not only surrounded by the community of her colleagues and students at PU, she is also an active organizer. She is a motivated conference organizer and a successful project initiator and project manager. These kinds of activities are important to meet the expectations of social accountability and the third mission of universities.

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In the course of our professional collaboration with Dr. Kačmárová, I have acknowledged her ambitions, her professional qualities and steady advancement in the field of English Linguistics, Pragmatics and Communication, together with Translation and Interpreting Studies. Her decisive international educational and research experience together with her extended publication activity rightly led to her habilitation in 2012 and to the subsequent, prospective academic milestone in the form of a professorship to be anticipated in 2019.

In my assessment of the scientific and pedagogical merits of Dr. Kačmárová I want to emphasize the fact that in the 14 years as senior lecturer and associate professor she has been able to set an example of a well-trained, internationally renowned and inter-culturally open personality who has found a fair balance between education, research, science management and social engagement. Dr. Kačmárová is an outstanding representative of the internationally open and competitive Slovak scholarship.

I am convinced that her home university will enrich its faculty of full professors with the appointment of Dr. Alena Kačmárová. On the basis of my assessment presented above, I express *my full support for the appointment of Dr. Kačmárová as full professor* at the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice as she fulfils - without reservation - all the criteria set by international standards to the position of a university professor.

With best regards,


Professor Dr. László I. Komlósi, PhD, Dr. h.c.