

# STATEMENT

by Prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.

on procedure for election and appointment of associate professor in the professional field  
3.2 Psychology (Developmental Psychology - childhood and adolescence),  
Of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski, Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and  
Legal Sciences and National Security, announced in State Gazette no. 65 of 08/16/2019 for the  
needs of the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology of  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

**Statement prepared as required by:** Order RD 38-605 / 11.10.2019 of the Rector of Sofia  
University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

## 1. GENERAL

There are two applications for the abovementioned position:

- Chief assist. Prof. Camellia Doncheva Hancheva, PhD, from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "
- Chief assist. Prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov, PhD, from Veliko Turnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

### **Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD**

Camellia Hancheva graduated Psychology at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" in 1996 with master degree. The master thesis of the candidate is: "Aggressive behavior in children or on some manifestation of death instinct". For the course of her studies, she has three specializations: Developmental Psychology, Education and Culture, Clinical and Counseling Psychology, and Organizational Psychology. In 2013 C. Hancheva defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic: "Defense mechanisms and coping strategies of parents and their link to the adaptive functioning

of the child" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" - professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental and Pedagogical Psychology) and holds a PhD degree.

In 1999, Camellia Hancheva was appointed an assistant professor in the Department of General, Experimental and Genetic Psychology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" after winning first place in the procedure of election. She developed her career gradually and steadily as a senior assistant and chief assistant in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental and Pedagogical Psychology) where is her current occupation. Many evidences are presented in the submitted information about the candidate's work experience – she has 22 years of experience in the specialty of Psychology in the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". Chief Assistant Professor Camelia Hancheva, PhD, is a lecturer in a compulsory lecture course on "Developmental Psychology – Childhood and Adolescence" - part one, for bachelor students in "Psychology" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". The presented information about the workload of Dr. Hancheva shows that she is lecturer of three additional compulsory and two elective courses for bachelor students, as well as of three compulsory and six elective courses in the Master's programs in Psychology at Sofia University. All the courses presented and lectured by Dr. C. Hancheva are entirely on the topic of procedure opened for associate professor.

From 2013 to 2018, Dr. Hancheva is a part-time lecturer at the International Psychoanalytic University - Berlin, (IPU-Berlin), Germany, in which she lectures courses: Developmental Psychology and Social Trauma.

In addition, Dr. Camellia Hancheva works as a consultant and supervisor at: Functional Laboratory for Children, Adolescents and Families at the Master programme of Developmental and School Psychology (Diagnostics and Counseling), Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Early Childhood Development Program of UNICEF (Project for Evaluation of the effectiveness of a social patronage program in Sliven and the region), Sofia, Bulgaria; Montessori Kindergarten and School, Sofia, Bulgaria.

### **Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov, PhD**

Manol Manolov presents documents showing that in 2011 he graduated Psychology at Paisii Hilendarski University with a bachelor's degree. His thesis is titled: "The psychological identity of the Self in the work of Salvador Dali and Vincent van Gogh". Immediately after that - in 2012

he completed his master's degree in psychology at the same university. In 2018, M. Manolov defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic: "Interaction models for reducing the social exclusion of non-standard groups" and acquired a scientific and educational degree PhD in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology) of Veliko Turnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

In February 2017, Manol Manolov was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Veliko Turnovo "St. Cyril and Methodius", and since July 2019 has been the Chief Assistant Professor at the same department. The main lectures and seminars of the applicant are rather in the field of social psychology.

During the years of his studies and after that the applicant has worked as a psychologist and pedagogical supervisor, he also occupied administrative positions in various organizations and institutions that are not in the profile of this procedure.

The documents presented by both candidates show that they fulfill the minimum requirements for application in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the conditions and the procedure for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Art. 105, (1) item 1 and item 2.

Both applicants have a PhD degree in professional field 3.2. Psychology. However, I would like to emphasize the following. C. Hancheva's doctoral dissertation is in the field of child-adolescence psychology, while that of M. Manolov is in social psychology. It is also important to pay attention to the fact that C. Hancheva's academic experience is many times higher than that of M. Manolov. Another important fact - C. Hancheva is the lecturer in many courses on the topic of the associate professor's procedure some of which are taught in English.

## **2. HABILITATION PUBLICATION**

### **Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD**

For participation in the procedure Dr. C. Hancheva presents habilitation book - monograph: "Mentalization and early stages of socio-emotional development". The work meets all the requirements for the monograph and completely matches the theme of the announced competition. This leads me to conclude that Chief. Assistant Professor C. Hancheva fulfills the requirements of the Rules for the conditions and procedure for obtaining academic degrees and occupying

academic positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and in particular of Art. 105, item 3, according to which candidates must “have submitted published monographs or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications in the field of competition or evidence of relevant artistic achievements in the field of arts, different from the ones presented for a doctoral degree”.

**Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov, PhD**

For participation in the competition Assistant Professor M. Manolov presents habilitation work on the topic: “Self-Discrimination”. According to the formal criteria for a monograph, a work with more than 100 pages and with scientific review is accepted. However, I think that the presented work is not on the topic of the competition, as none of its parts is a topic on the respective scientific area. This work describes the process of socialization of the Bulgarian people during the adoption of the Christian faith, the creation of Slavic alphabet. The ideas of foreign peoples about the Bulgarians during the Middle Ages were also examined. In addition, analyzes based on texts by authors from the Bulgarian Renaissance are presented. In this sense, the text is not relevant and does not contribute to the problems of child-adolescence psychology. There are enough evidences that allow me to conclude that this habilitation work is not a topic of the competition.

M. Manolov also presents a monograph co-authored with I. Stoyanov: “Psychology of parenting styles in the field of life meaning”. However, this work emphasizes and analyzes the parenting styles and socio-psychological determinants of the family. To a certain degree this monograph fits in the the subject of the announced procedure for associate professor in Developmental Psychology, nevertheless, the separate contributions of the two authors is not clearly indicated.

In addition, Dr. M. Manolov presents other publications, but they cannot be considered equivalent in the field of competition in specialized scientific publications, which cover the required 100 points.

Based on the above mentioned, I think that the candidate Assistant Professor Manol Manolov does not meet the requirements of the Rules for the conditions and procedure for obtaining academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. According to Art. 105, item 3 candidates must “have submitted a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications in the field of the procedure or evidence of

relevant artistic achievements in the field of arts, different from the ones presented for a doctoral degree”.

### **3. FULFILLMENT OF THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OCCUPATION OF THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.**

#### **Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD**

Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD, presents a reference list with relevant evidence. From the information given it is clear that Dr. C. Hancheva fulfills the minimum national requirements in accordance with the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Protection of the People's Rights (amendment and supplement SG 15/19/2019, table 1, District 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, 3.2. Psychology). Specifically: for groups A, B and C, respectively, indicator 1, indicator 2 and indicator 3. It has the necessary 150 points, since she holds the degree of doctor (PhD), which is equated and adds 50 points, and also presents the habilitation work that is ascribed another 100 points.

Group D (P4 to P10) of the ZRARB Implementing Regulations requirements for an associate professor are for the applicant to have at least 200 points. Based on the information provided by Dr. C. Hancheva, her publications equal to 217.6 points. Also, according to the same Regulations, the candidate for associate professor should have 50 points from references. The reference to the citations presented by Ch. Prof. Camellia Hancheva, PhD, shows 3 citations in SCOPUS, which are equal to 45 points. There are also two citations in the monograph, which carry another 20 tons. The total citation data is 65 K. The check I made confirms the citation provided by C. Hancheva, PhD.

#### **Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov, PhD**

For groups A, B and C, respectively, indicator 1, indicator 2 and indicator 3, Chief Assistant Professor M. Manolov, PhD, collects only the necessary 50 points, since he holds a scientific and educational degree “doctor”, since both the habilitation work and the other publications are not in the field of competition and, in my opinion, do not meet the requirements of the Law. In this regard, they do not carry the required 100 points, which are mandatory.

With regard to the indicators from group D (P4 to P10) of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the implementation of the ZRARB, the candidate M. Manolov claims to have 257.5 points. Dr. Manolov presents two articles on these indicators of the minimum national requirements under the ZRARB. According to him, these publications are indexed in Web of Science. From my reference, the name of Manol Nikolov Manolov does not appear in Web of Science. I believe this is because the Psychology magazine, Scientific Research, An Academic Publisher, is not indexed in Web of Science. This can be seen from the edition's own page: <https://www.scirp.org/journal/PSYCH/>. This link lists the databases in which the journal is indexed, indicating that the articles cited by the applicant appear neither in Web of Science nor in SCOPUS. In this regard, I believe that these two articles (one of which is with the applicant as the only author and the other co-authored with three colleagues) cannot bring to Dr. Manolov **30/n** points, as well as **10/n** as ascribed to publications in peer-reviewed journals. Moreover, the citation in the same journal gives not 15 points, but 5 points. After the recalculation of the points according to indicator D, the correct number of points is 232.5 points, which cover the requirements for this part of the Law.

The reference provided by the candidate for indicator E for his citations equals to 55 points, which is sufficient according to the Law. I believe that this is the correct result, based on the arguments presented in the previous paragraph.

#### **4. PUBLICATIONS**

##### **Chief Assistant Dr. Camellia Hancheva**

Chief Assistant Professor C. Hancheva presents a reference to the scientific papers on the topic of the competition, which shows the following: one independent monograph on the topic of the competition; one independent monograph - published doctoral dissertation; five chapters from two collective monographs, of which she is one of the scientific editors published in the prestigious Routledge; 8 articles, studies and reports - 5 independent and 3 co-authored, in peer-reviewed journals or in peer-reviewed collective volumes. Three of the last publications are in English.

**Chief Assistant Dr. Manol Manolov**

For participation in the competition Chief Assistant Professor. M. Manolov presents the following reference for publications: one independent monograph; two monographs in co-authorship; two separate English-language articles, three co-authored articles - two in English. Formally submitted publications fulfill the requirements of Art. 105. However, I do not think that they are substantially related to the subject of the announced competition – Developmental psychology in childhood and adolescence.

**5. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD**

Presented by Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD, scientific publications are entirely in the field of the procedure announced. The main monograph “Mentalization and the early stages of socio-emotional development” focuses on the problems of early childhood development based on the psychoanalytic paradigm. Dr. Hancheva is trying to introduce a new paradigm that synthesizes research and theoretical conceptualizations in the field of developmental psychology. The featured publications, book chapters in collective monographs, address refugee issues, mainly children, and related mechanisms for coping, processing and survival, as well as analysis of social trauma. I believe that the publications presented by Dr. C. Hancheva are entirely in the topic of the announced in the procedure position and in particular reflect ideas related to child-adolescence psychology and work in providing psychological counseling to clients.

I fully accept the contributions of Chief assistant professor C. Hancheva, PhD, which can be supplemented and summarized as follows.

1. The submitted scientific papers characterize Dr. C. Hancheva as a competent researcher with a strong interest not only in theoretical analyzes, empirical studies, but also in practical and applied aspects of the work.
2. A common feature of scientific publications is the interpretation of ideas and concepts in the three meta-levels of psychological knowledge: theory, method, and experiment in the sense of practical action.

3. Each of the publications is related to a well-established, significant object or principle in psychological science. The incorporation into the research of the theory-method-action relationship is an important feature of her methodological competences.
4. The publications correspond to both the development of contemporary scientific knowledge in psychology and the human practices of implicit theories and common sense.
5. The accumulated data and research in many studies reflects on and connect various fields of applied psychology, and in particular - therapeutic practice.

### **Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov, PhD**

Presented by the applicant Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov, PhD, scientific publications are entirely in the field of social psychology. From the submitted abstracts of the scientific papers for participation in the procedure, the candidate himself defines his monograph “Self-Discrimination” (presented as basic habilitation work) as follows: “The present work may be useful in the context of social, political and organizational psychology”. I think the work is focused on socio-psychological issues, which mainly concern stereotypes and prejudices, but which do not address child and adolescence psychology. The monograph “Many Faces of the Self (Image for Yourself in Contemporary Reality)”, co-authored with M. Bakracheva, claims to be oriented towards the problems of young people and adolescences. It is, however, rather a practical guide for working with young people and, as the authors point out, the idea is: “rather stimulate interest in... appropriate methods of working on a daily basis”.

The third monograph, Psychology of Parenting Styles in the Field of Life, co-authored with Ivan Stoyanov, lacks a protocol separating contributions of the two authors. This makes it impossible to take into account the candidate's contribution.

The other publications submitted for participation by Dr. M. Manolov in the competition are entirely in the field of social psychology and will not be discussed.

## **6. TEACHING**

### **Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD**

Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva has 15 courses, which she lectures at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Bulgarian and English.

Most of them are courses developed and implemented by the candidate in the curriculum. In addition, Dr. Hancheva has been a part-time lecturer at the International Psychoanalytical University - Berlin, (IPU-Berlin), Germany for four years, where she lectured a course in Developmental Psychology and Social trauma at a Master's level. All of these lecture courses are in the field of the announced procedure. As a lecturer, Dr. C. Hancheva is highly appreciated not only by her colleagues but also by the students, for whom the practical tasks included in her programs are particularly relevant.

### **Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov, PhD**

See Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov has a minimum of academic experience required for admission to the competition. He conducts classes and seminars for students in social psychology, psychological assessment, legal psychology, comparative psychology, child and adolescence psychology, political psychology and ethno-psychology. There are also courses in social psychology, business psychology, ethno-psychology, and social and ethnic conflicts in the master's program in personality psychology. Of these disciplines, only one course is within the scope of the announced procedure: Seminars in Child and Adolescence Psychology. I think that the above mentioned teaching experience is scarce and quite insufficient to cover the 15 university lectures in Bulgarian and English for the purposes of which this procedure is announced. The information provided does not indicate that Dr. M. Manolov has a course in English.

No evidence of plagiarism was observed in either candidate's work.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Doncheva Hancheva, PhD** - meets all the requirements of the LPRA and the regulations for its implementation both in the country and in the Sofia University. She has many years of experience and experience at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". She is also the author of part of the lecture courses that are the subject of this procedure. Dr. C. Hancheva's complete work offers a thorough, systematic and in-depth analysis of the achievements in the field of child development and clinical and counseling psychology, refined through the original interpretation of the author. It enriches both the theoretical and the empirical

level with a holistic therapeutic approach and offers a promising direction for its practical application. She has extensive research experience gained from her involvement in numerous national and international research projects, some of them with the financial support of the European Institutions.

As a result of the high appreciation of the scientific and teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva **I strongly support her application as a candidate for an “associate professor” in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology - Child and Adolescence) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.**

**Chief Assistant Professor Manol Manolov** - the publications presented are in the field of social psychology, not in the scientific area of the announced procedure. I also believe that there is no lecturing experience in the field of the announced procedure. In this respect, he does not meet the national minimum requirements. Based on the abovementioned – **I do not propose him and do not support his application for associate professor in the announced procedure - in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology - Child and Adolescence) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.**

12/20/2019

Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Prof. Sonia Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.)