

OPINION

on the competition for associate professor (docent) in specialty 3.2. PSYCHOLOGY (PSYCHOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT AGE), announced in SG no. 24 of 17.03.2023 for the needs of the Department of General, Experimental, Behavioral and Health Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by a single candidate - chief assistant. Dr. Svetlina Koleva. She has presented 11 scientific publications, of which 8 are co-authored with Plamen Kalchev and 3 are independent. The publications with Plamen Kalchev are: 2 monographs "Sadistic tendencies in adolescence. Part 1. Scales for assessment" Sofia 2020, "East-West" Publishing House and "Sadistic tendencies in adolescence. Part 2. Personality determinants", Sofia 2021, "East-West" Publishing House and 6 studies published in the Yearbook of Sofia University, Faculty of Philosophy. Dr. Svetlina Koleva's independent publications are the monograph "Triarchic model of psychopathic personality traits in adolescence", Sofia 2019, Iztok-Zapad publishing house, 260 pages; chapter 25 of the collective monograph in English "TRAUMA, TRUST AND MEMORY. Social Trauma and Reconciliation in Psychoanalysis, Psychotherapy and Cultural Memory. (First published 2018 by Routledge 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN and by Routledge 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017) and the scientific report "Bulgarian adaptation of the Dark Triad - short version" published in "Collection of scientific reports of the 8th National Congress of Psychology" Sofia, 2017. Pg. 207-223. Dr. Svetlina Koleva's independent monograph "Triarchic model of psychopathic personality traits in adolescence" can be accepted as a habilitation work. Therefore, I will look at it in more detail later.

The purpose of the monograph, according to the author, is to "examine one of the modern theories about the essence of psychopathy and, more specifically, to check the relevance of the theoretical explanatory model proposed by K. Patrick, D. Fowles and R. Krueger. Their postulated Triarchic Model presents psychopathy as consisting of three phenotypic constructs – intemperance, boldness, and brutality – and has the ambition to encompass both classical settings and contemporary research in the field. According to the authors, the Triarchic model provides good explanatory possibilities for the diverse manifestations of psychopathic personalities: impulsive and antisocial behavior, a significant deficit in the ability to empathize, manifested in exploitative behavior, without the appearance of a sense of guilt and remorse, sometimes combined with a belief in one's own superiority over others and a desire to dominate social relationships, and

emotional stability. Referring to the classic work of H. Cleckley (1976), K. Patrick and co-authors (Patrick et al. 2009) believe that with the help of the Triarchic Model and the self-report questionnaire Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM) operationalized on its basis , Patrick, 2010b) can be evaluated and deepened the understanding of both the psychopathic personality, which functions in a relatively adaptive, but still damaging way, and criminal psychopaths. For the evaluation of the model, it is very important to check the interrelationships and causal relations of the constructs embedded in it with the links proven in the literature between psychopathy and other personality traits, attitudes and types of behavior.” I give a detailed quote from the Introduction because it lays out the main ideas for research that the author has done and described in detail in her book in the following chapters. I will allow myself one more lengthy quote from the introduction, and then I will move on to presenting the results of the author's research on the problems of psychopathic personalities. “Chapter One presents a brief overview of psychopathic personality characteristics. Both historical and contemporary concepts are examined, and attention is paid to theoretical perspectives on the differences between primary and secondary psychopathy. The debated question in scientific circles about the structure of psychopathy: whether it is a single construct or a combination of several relatively independent dimensions was seen as a transition to the presentation of the Triarchic model of psychopathy (the essence of the underlying constructs intemperance, boldness and brutality, as well as the developmental paths for their formation). The following chapters (from the second to the seventh) are devoted to the research work. The Bulgarian adaptation of the Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM, Patrick, 2010b) prepared for adolescence with a sample of 1061 subjects aged 13 to 18 years is presented. The factor structure was evaluated with two independent samples by exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis (Chapter 2.). As a secondary but related task, the adaptation of another self-report questionnaire for adolescence: the Short Dark Triad – short version (Short Dark Triad, SD3, Jones & Paulhus, 2014), which measures the personality traits Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, was adopted. The results and the analysis of its factor structure are presented in the third chapter. The internal consistency and test-retest reliability of both scales are examined and described in chapter four, and the relationships between them are assessed through correlation analyzes and structural models (chapter 5.). The sixth chapter describes the results of validating the TriPM and SD3 against constructs relevant to the assessment of psychopathy by evaluating correlation and regression analyses, and structural models. The relationships with another popular tool for assessing psychopathic personality traits, which was specially developed for adolescence: the Youth Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (YPI; Andershed et al., 2002; Bulgarian adaptation: Kalchev, 2016), as well as with other important

constructs such as callousness and unemotionality, narcissism, externalizing problems, moral disengagement, and sadistic tendencies. An initial validation of the Varieties of sadistic tendencies (VAST, Paulhus & Jones, 2015) was also carried out.”

Dr. Svetlina Koleva planned and conducted nearly 10 experimental studies in which she tested various concepts of psychopathy. The obtained results were analyzed using two types of factor analysis – confirmatory factor analysis and exploratory factor analysis. She has interpreted the obtained factors in the most adequate way, so that the verification of the expected structures of the studied constructs is convincing and corresponds to the expectations. In addition to the methods of the two types of factor analysis, the data were also analyzed with correlation and regression analysis, and the obtained correlations were interpreted within the framework of the used models of psychopathy. In order to investigate whether the influence of certain factors on dependent variables is statistically significant, Dr. Koleva also used the methods of variance analysis, with the experimental results presented in factor matrices prepared for one-way or two-way ANOVA. All these data were obtained in well-planned studies and analyzed with the most appropriate statistical methods. The studies described in the monograph and the analysis of their results were performed at a high professional level. Dr. Svetlina Koleva not only knows the relevant methods, but also skillfully interprets the results obtained with various statistical methods.

In conclusion, I can say that Dr. Svetlina Koleva is a well-rounded scientist and professional researcher who perfectly masters scientific research methodology and applies it to the adequate solution of tasks derived from various theoretical models. I propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to vote to give the academic position ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR to Dr. Svetlina Koleva.

Sofia, 12/08/2023

Wrote the Opinion:

/prof. Dr. Encho Gerganov/