

## REFERENCE STATEMENT

By Camellia Doncheva Hancheva, Associate Professor in 3.2. (Developmental Psychology), PhD in Psychology; Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University

In regard with the procedure for "associate professor" in a professional field

3.2 Psychology (Developmental psychology – childhood through adolescence), announced in SG, issue 24 of 17.03.2023

for the needs of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "

In compliance with the: Order RD 38-178 / 21.4.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "

### 1. General information

Application documents for the announced position, according to the procedure and within the term provided by the law, have been submitted by one candidate: Chief Assistant Professor Svetlina Georgieva Koleva, PhD from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

In accordance with the minimal national requirements and with the additional requirements of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski", this reference statement has been prepared on the basis of the documents received and uploaded in a digital form. The documents submitted for the position, comply with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and Regulations of Rules of Procedure for the acquisition of scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "from January 23, 2019

Ch. Assist. Prof. Svetlina Georgieva Koleva, PhD has a university degree in psychology, she graduated with honors in the specialty "Psychology" at the Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". In 2004, she graduated with a bachelor's degree with qualifications: psychologist, teacher of psychology, philosophy, logic and ethics, and in 2006 obtained the degree "Master of Child and Adolescent Psychology". The candidate's thesis is on the topic: "*Hostility, aggression and empathy in adolescence*". During her studies, she impressed as a diligent student with lasting interests and deep knowledge in various fields of psychology and humanities. Svetlina Koleva was honored with an award from the Faculty of Philosophy for an outstanding student. The candidate speaks English and German at a high professional level. In 2015, S. Koleva was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student, and in 2018 she defended her doctoral dissertation

on the topic: "*Trairchic Psychopathy Model of psychopathic personality characteristics in adolescence*" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" by professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Child and Adolescent Developmental Psychology) and obtained the scientific and educational degree "doctor".

Svetlina Koleva held the positions respectively: part-time assistant professor 2014-2016, full-time assistant professor 2016-2018. and Chief Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology from 2018 to present in the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental, and Health Psychology. Ch. Assist Prof., Dr. Svetlina Koleva, has many years of experience in conducting seminars on Developmental Psychology (parts 1 and 2) in bachelor's and master's programs in the specialty "Psychology" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", as well as seminar classes in Child Psychology and Pedagogy in the bachelor's program of the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University, she is the author and lecturer of the course "Intimate Relationships" in the master's program in General Psychology in English, Sofia University.

## **2. Habilitation book**

The candidate Ch. assistant professor Dr. Svetlina Koleva has presented a habilitation thesis in the form of a joint monograph, published in 2020 by the "Iztok-Zapad" publishing house. entitled *Sadistic Tendencies in Adolescence. Part 1: Rating scales*. According to the annexes to the documents – separation protocol, S. Koleva is the author of chapters 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, the volume of which meets the requirements of the procedure. The proposed habilitation monographic work does not repeat the one presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor". This work, in terms of volume and topic, completely coincides with the topic of the announced competition, which fulfills the requirements of the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", art. 105, (1). 3. The habilitation work is the result of long-term interest, searches and research practice in the field of diagnosis of problematic characteristics in adolescence. The Monograph examines the main approaches to defining and studying sadism, parallels are made between clinical and subclinical (everyday) manifestations of the phenomenon, and patterns and connections between various personality traits and problem characteristics with sadistic tendencies are inferred. The volume of data and samples, the precision of analyzes and interpretations are a distinctive feature of this, as well as other scientific texts by Svetlina Koleva, form a recognizable style of the author and provide the scientific community in Bulgaria with diagnostic tools with high reliability and validity for application in scientific - the research, diagnostic or consulting practice.

### **3. Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor"**

With the publications and quotations selected for the application procedure Ch. Assist Prof Svetlina Koleva, PhD meets the minimum national requirements for holding the position of "Associate Professor" in the field of academic education 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology with a total of 443.14 points (by group of indicators A, B, and C) which is more than the required 400. Specifically: for group A, B and C, respectively indicator 1, indicator 2, indicator 3 are calculated 150 points - the degree "Doctor" (50 points) and habilitation work (100 points). The requirement for publications for an associate professor according to group D (P4 to P10) of the Regulations for implementation of the Law are that for Associate Professorship the candidate has to provide proof for at least 200 points. According to the submitted report, the candidate has 222.14 points. These are both independent and joint publications at a high scientific level. The required 50 items of citations have been exceeded, such as 40 items. are from citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, and 30 from citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

No points were calculated for indicator E, but from the CV it is clear that Svetlina Koleva actively participates in research projects in the field of Psychology, she also won a two-year project under the "Young Scientists and Post-Doctoral Students" program on the topic: "*Schadenfreude and gloating as a psychological construct . Analysis parameters and personality determinants*'.

The report is comprehensive and provides the necessary information. The requirements of the obligatory bibliographic description of the publications and citations are fully met.

### **4. Publications**

In the full reference to the scientific works of Ch. Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva, PhD a total of 22 scientific publications are described, of which one independent monograph (based on a defended dissertation), three co-authored monographs (with a clear separation of the contributions of the two authors), 18 articles, studies and reports (in peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes), of which 7 are independent (of which 2 are in English) and 11 are co-authored.

The publications of Svetlina Koleva should be evaluated in two ways. First, substantively, these publications reflect the scope and direction of Koleva's scholarly interests over the past decade. The focus

on adolescence and the problem areas of personal functioning are an abiding interest for the author, and their in-depth study is of great importance. The tools available, thanks to these efforts, place research on Bulgarian samples at the world level and provide diagnostic tools with excellent psychometric characteristics and high precision in differential diagnosis.

Secondly, in a practical-applied aspect, the scientific activity of S. Koleva helps to plan adequate programs for early diagnosis, correctional work and research of the effectiveness of interventions on a nationwide scale. The handwriting of the candidate in research planning and design is unmistakably recognizable.

All publications (independent and co-authored) are thematically and content-wise in the field of the announced competition. The publications selected for participation in the competition are representative of the selected scientific field and the quality of the candidate's scientific work.

## **5. Research and scientific contributions**

### Scientific contributions

Theoretical contributions of Ch. Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva, PhD: The habilitation monographic work "*Sadistic Tendencies in Adolescence. Part 1. Rating Scales*" is the first out of three books (already published) dealing with sadistic tendencies in adolescence. The definition of this emotionally charged problem, its contextualization and assessment are the subject of the publication. The candidate has made a major contribution to the historical tracing and definition of the construct and authorship of adaptations of several scales designed to measure correlated constructs and contributing to a more complete understanding of the characteristics and manifestations of sadistic tendencies. Part of them are two questionnaires for the assessment of pathological personality traits, constructed on the basis of the dimensional approach in DSM-5: Personality Questionnaire for DSM-5-Abbreviated Form and Personality Questionnaire for DSM-5-Short Version, as well as scales for evaluating Machiavellianism, psychopathy, bitterness and lack of fear. The second book in the series (subtitled *Personality Determinants*, submitted for inclusion in the habilitation process) reveals the important role of vindictiveness as the personality trait most strongly associated with sadism, as well as other determinants such as aggression, empathy, anger, hostility, mistrust, and moral skepticism.

The monograph "*Triarchic Model of Psychopathic Personality Traits in Adolescence*" is a contribution to the theory of psychopathological characteristics and their early development and diagnosis in adolescence. The book describes the Bulgarian adaptation of the Triarchic Measure of Psychopathy with a sample of adolescents. The instrument was adapted in two stages with data from over a thousand respondents. This instrument, along with an adaptation of the Dark Triad - Short Version, is compared and compared with data from other self-report scales for psychopathic traits, Dark Triad personality traits, callous/unemotional, narcissism, externalizing developmental problems, moral disengagement, and sadistic tendencies describe a little-known but widespread personality pathology in the making. Even earlier moments and manifestations of psychopathic characteristics are presented in the studies (co-authored) "*Factor Structure of the Questionnaire for Problematic Personality Traits in Childhood*". A significant and interesting contribution is the chapter "*Hostility and Empathy as Predictors of Aggressive, Prosocial and Avoidant Behavior in Adolescence*" in the international, English-language collection "*Trauma, Trust and Memory*", in which school aggression and bullying are presented as serious problems in social and general human plan.

The precise analysis of data and the discovery of interrelationships leading to the construction of explanatory models are a definite advantage and an indisputable scientific contribution in the candidate's publications.

Contributions to the applied field of psychological scientific knowledge are related precisely to the development of tools for diagnosis in adolescence, especially important in consultative and clinical work.

#### Projects

Svetlina Koleva, PhD participates in scientific projects of the department, which testifies to her teamwork skills and the coordinated conduct and analysis of data and preparation of joint publications.

#### **6. Teaching activity**

Ch. Assist. Prof. S. Koleva, PhD has a full workload and conducts seminars on the main course in the bachelor's program in Psychology - Developmental Psychology in Children and Adolescents (Part One and Two), as well as seminars on the course Child Psychology and Pedagogy at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University. There is a course developed in the master's program in English, which is offered and chosen

by Erasmus students. Svetlina Koleva is involved in the process of developing and defending master's theses at the Master Program of Child and Adolescent and School Psychology, initially as a reviewer, and for several years now more and more actively as a scientific supervisor of successfully defended theses.

## **CONCLUSION**

Chief Assistant Professor Svetlina Georgieva Koleva, PhD - meets all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its application both in the country and at Sofia University. Her scientific and professional development, teaching and research practice are mainly at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". Svetlina Koleva is the main lecturer in the bachelor's degree in Psychology and leads the seminar classes of most of the courses that are the subject of the current competition. The overall scientific activity of the candidate is characterized by methodological and analytical precision. Ch. Assist Prof S. Koleva has extensive research experience, showing her undoubted abilities for both independent work and teamwork. The high evaluation of the scientific and teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Svetlina Koleva gives me every reason to categorically support her election as an "associate professor" in professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Psychology of Development in Childhood and Adolescence) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

25.03. 2022

Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Camellia Hancheva, PhD)