

SCIENTIFIC JURY MEMBER'S OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Maria Petrova Trifonova, PhD

Professional area: 3.2. Psychology

Department of Psychology

Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Evaluation of the scientific production submitted for consideration in the competition for promotion to the level of Associate Professor in the professional area: 3.2. Psychology (Child and Adolescence Psychology), announced in the State' s Journal, Issue 24 from 17.03. 2023 for the needs of the Department "General, experimental, developmental psychology and psychology of health" Faculty of Philosophy at the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" following the Order# RD 38-178/21.04.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Candidate: Ch. Assist. Prof. Svetlina Georgieva Koleva, PhD

1. EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Educational and professional background of Svetlina Georgieva Koleva corresponds to the scope of the announced competition. She received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Child and Youth Psychology (diagnostics and counseling) at St. Kliment Ohridski" (2006). In 2018 she successfully defended her dissertation on "Triarchic model of psychopathic personality traits in adolescence" in the professional area: 3.2. Psychology (Child and Adolescence Psychology). Dr. Koleva started her work experience as an assistant and senior assistant professor in the Department of General, Experimental and Developmental psychology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", since 2018 she is a chief assistant professor in the same department.

With the submitted dissertation thesis (A-50 items); habilitation monograph (B-100 points), publications (G-222.14 points) and citations (D- 70 points), the candidate has collected 442.14 points out of the required 400. With all these achievements, she has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for taking the academic position "associate professor".

2. HABILITATION MONOGRAPH

The habilitation work presented by the candidate Ch. Asst. Prof. Svetlina Koleva, PhD, is a collective monograph entitled "Sadistic Tendencies in Adolescence. Part 1. Rating scales". Sofia: East-West. ISBN:978-619-01-0719-4., written with co-author Prof. Pl. Kalchev and published in 2020.

Thematically, the work follows the theoretical questions and hypotheses that the scientist has been exploring since the beginning of her scientific activity. The emphasis in the habilitation work is on the methodology of measurement the construct "sadism" and the personal characteristics related to it by means of the developed rating scales; Thanks of the in-depth analysis of its various manifestations - both on a behavioral and subclinical level, a clear differentiation from similar constructs is achieved.

With its high scientific quality, the habilitation thesis fulfills all the requirements for a monograph, which fulfills the requirements of the Regulations for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", art. 105, (1). 3.

3. PUBLISHING ACTIVITY

In the comprehensive reference list of all publications of Ch. Asst. Prof. Svetlina Koleva listed twenty two titles, and she chose and presented eight of them for her participation in the announced competition. Among the submitted entries for the competition are three monographs (two of which are co-authored), one chapter of a collective monograph, one article in a non-refereed peer-reviewed journal, and three studios published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

The core of the scientific research work of Ch. Asst. Prof. Svetlina Koleva is the nature of several socially negative characteristics, their various behavioural manifestations and subclinical forms, the trajectory of their development in adolescence, and the personal determinants that increase the probability of their manifestation in antisocial behavior.

A large part of the scientific activity of Ch. Asst. Prof. Svetlina Koleva is focused on the adaptation of multiple scales, questionnaires, both for measuring sadistic tendencies in adolescence and related personality characteristics, as well as those investigated with the Triarchic Measure of Psychopathic Personality, with the Personality Questionnaire for DSM-5- short form, with the Questionnaire for problematic personality traits in childhood, etc.

This process is not an end in itself- it reflects an in-depth scientific approach that uses the dimensions assessed with a very precise methodology to reveal the construct validity of the scales; in addition, it also makes a significant theoretical contribution by orienting in the complex nature of the studied phenomena, differentiates them and shows their relationships.

The result of this activity is that it provides the professionals with a rich, well-chosen and precisely tested toolkit that can be applied in practice. In addition, the finding of those personal determinants that can provoke the behavioral manifestations of sadistic tendencies in adolescence is particularly useful for the practice.

The content of all publications (independent and co-authored) is on a topic that is in the field of the announced competition.

Evidence of the professional community's interest in the works of Ch. Asst. Prof. Svetlina G. Koleva are the presented citations, of which four are cited in peer-reviewed monographs and six are cited in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

4. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The study of the nature of sadistic tendencies as well as psychopathic characteristics in adolescents is an important research objective related to the disclosure of their multifaceted profile and their developmental trajectory in the context of the life perspective and goals of the personality during this age period. In her publications Ch. Asst. Prof. Svetlina Koleva fulfilled her research goals at a very high professional level of competence and expertise, which allowed to discover the determinants of sadistic tendencies in adolescents. Probably, the chain of determinants could be continued, but even those that Svetlina Koleva focused on have very good explanatory power.

From a theoretical point of view, her publications allow to satisfy the scientific searches for the essence of the studied constructs, to answer to difficult questions of whether they can be considered as unified entities or made up of separate dimensions, etc.

The theoretical analysis of sadistic tendencies is based on the modern scientific approaches in psychology to this phenomenon, with the interest being directed to the manifestations at the subclinical level and suggesting orientation to a less studied group, namely the non-clinical group of adolescents. It also provides a broad perspective of the developmental trajectory, revealing the epigenetic nature of this process. The regularities revealed are of both fundamental and applied value, carrying a certain socially significant potential, understood in the perspective

of early assessment and intervention. In this context, the adapted newly created toolkit, possessing very good psychometric properties, is particularly useful for achieving these practical goals and can find application in clinical and counseling practice.

Undoubted merit of the publications are the professional approach and the wide scale of the conducted series of empirical studies, the subsequent analysis, the interpretation and explanation of the multi-directional results, as well as the synthesis of theoretical and empirical information.

5. ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Svetlina Koleva conducts seminars on " Developmental Psychology in Childhood and in Adolescence" – in the master's program "Child and Adolescent Psychology (Diagnostics and Counseling)"; seminar classes on "Child Psychology and Pedagogy" – in bachelor's degree program "Nurse"; as well as lectures and seminar classes on "Intimate Relationships" in the Master's program "General Psychology in English".

6. CONCLUSION

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Svetlina Koleva - meets all the requirements of the the LAW on the development of the academic staff in the Republic Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation at the at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

She has an extensive research experience, which is reflected in the systematicity and consistency of her research interests, focused on the in-depth penetration into the topic of sadistic tendencies in adolescence, in the research carried out and aimed to this goal, in the methodological precision of the conducted empirical research, in the analysis and proposed explanatory models.

Her publications reflect in-depth scientific research activity, leading to significant contributions in fundamental and applied science. With my high estimation of the candidate's academic activities-scientific work and teaching experience, I unconditionally support her election as an "associate professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology in Childhood and Adolescence) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

9.08.2023 г.

Scientific Jury Member:

Assoc. Prof. Maria Petrova Trifonova, PhD