

REVIEW

from Assoc. Prof. Milena Mutafchieva, PhD
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on scientific publications for participation in a competition for the academic position of associate professor in a professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology in Childhood and Adolescence), published in the State Gazette, no. 24 of 17.03.2023 for the needs and for a full-time position in the Department "General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology" at the Faculty of Philosophy.

with candidate assistant professor Svetlina Georgieva Koleva, PhD

I. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

The candidate Assistant Professor Svetlina Koleva, PhD meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "associate professor" in professional field 3.2. Psychology, formulated in the Regulations on the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. The applicant's self-assessment report is completed comprehensively and informatively and is supported by the necessary bibliographic description of publications and citations.

II. Applicant data

Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva, PhD graduated a bachelor's program in psychology and a master's program in Developmental Psychology in Childhood and Adolescence in the department of "General, experimental and genetic psychology" of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2018, she defended a dissertation on the topic "Three-component model of psychopathic personality characteristics in adolescence" in professional field 3.2.

Psychology (Developmental Psychology in Childhood and Adolescence) at the same department.

Since 2014, Svetlina Koleva works as a part-time assistant in General and Developmental psychology at the Department of General, Experimental and Genetic Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2016, she was appointed as an assistant in the same department and from 2018 began working as a senior assistant in the Department of "General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology" at the Faculty of Philosophy.

Svetlina Koleva has been qualified as a psychodrama therapist since 2014.

III. Research activities and results

Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva, PhD applied for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.2. Psychology with one major monographic book:

1. Kalchev, P., & Koleva, S. (2020). *Sadistic tendencies in adolescence. Part 1. Assessment Scales*. Sofia: East-West, where she authored Chapter 1, Chapter 8, Chapter 9, Chapter 10, Chapter 11, Chapter 12, and Chapter 13 and co-authored the Introduction.

Two additional monographs:

2. Koleva, S. (2019). *A triarchic model of psychopathic personality traits in adolescence*. Sofia: East-West.

3. Koleva, S., & Kalchev, P. (2021). *Sadistic tendencies in adolescence. Part 2. Personality determinants*. Sofia: East-West, where she authored Chapter 2, paragraph 2.2, Chapter 3, Chapter 4 and Chapter 7 and co-authored the Introduction and Conclusion.

In addition, 1 article, 3 studies, and 1 book chapter are presented.

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including an assessment of the scientific contributions of the author

The book "*Sadistic tendencies in adolescence. Part 1.*" by Kalchev and Koleva, listed as the main monograph for the competition, is the first part of a three-book series that describes an in-depth study of sadistic tendencies in adolescence. The monograph is 347

pages in length and uses literature from over 200 sources. It describes assessment methods from a large-scale study on the topic. It comprises 13 chapters and an introduction. The main definitions of sadism and the theoretical concepts that explain it are presented. Bulgarian adaptations of five self-report instruments for assessing sadism are described, as well as the Six-Factor Youth Scale for Sadism (YSS-6), constructed through factor analyses of the other instruments. The scale in question represents in an economical way the six main dimensions of "everyday sadism" in adolescence. Adaptation of psychometric scales measuring other constructs that have potential relevance to the manifestation of sadistic tendencies and could contribute to a more complete understanding of them is also described.

Two inventories for the assessment of pathological personality traits constructed based on the dimensional approach in the DSM-5: the Personality Inventory for the DSM-5-Short Form (PID-5-SF, Maples et al., 2015) and the Personality Inventory for the DSM-5-Brief Version (PID-5-BF, Krueger et al., 2013) are described. Scales for the assessment of Machiavellianism, psychopathy, spitefulness, and fearlessness, are presented additionally. Reliability, gender, and age data are presented for each instrument.

Of the many contributions of this monograph, I would like to draw attention to the following:

- The in-depth systematic review of theoretical approaches and tools for assessing sadism
- Evidence for the adaptation of five self-report scales to assess sadism in adolescence
- The construction of a new instrument, the Six-Factor Youth Scale for Sadism (YSS-6).

I would like to emphasize that in view of the shortage of psychological instruments in Bulgaria, the adaptation and construction of new scales is of utmost importance for both research and practice.

2. Evaluation of contributions in the other attached publications

The other attached publications, with which Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva participated in this competition, are two monographs (which is impressive), 1 article from the proceedings

of the National Psychology Congress, 3 studies published in the yearbooks of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and one chapter of a book in English. In three of the publications Koleva is the only author, the rest are co-authored, in two of them Koleva is the first author.

The publications clearly show the consistent research interests of the candidate, which can be summarized mainly in two areas. The first concerns the adaptation of psychological instruments for the study of children and adolescents, with four of the five instruments described being for adolescence and one being for preschool children. Data from the adaptation process of the following scales are presented:

- Trairchic Measure of Psychopathy (Koleva, 2019)
- Dark Triad - short version (Koleva, 2019; 2017)
- Construct-validity measures of sadism (Koleva & Kalchev, 2019)
- DSM-5 Personality Inventory - short version (Koleva & Kalchev, 2019)
- Questionnaire on problematic personality traits in childhood (Kalchev et al., 2018)

Dr. Koleva's second area of research interests relates to the characteristics of aggressive behaviour and problematic personality traits in childhood and adolescence, such as studies aimed to discover personality determinants of sadistic tendencies in adolescence (Koleva & Kalchev, 2021) and predictors of aggressive, prosocial, and avoidant behaviour in school-age children (Koleva, 2018).

3. Citations

The citations of the candidate's scientific works exceed the minimum required for the academic position of Associate Professor in PF 3.2. Psychology, formulated in the Regulations on the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. Four of the citations are in monographs and the remaining 6 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

IV. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the results in practice

Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva has participated in 4 research projects so far, three of them funded by the National Research Fund. The main achievements of 3 of the projects is the

approbation of psychological instruments for the study of children and adolescents. I would like to make one recommendation. I believe that future participation of the Svetlina Koleva in international research projects would enrich her perspective and research experience in an international team.

V. Teaching Activities

Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva, PhD has extensive teaching experience in the field of Child and Adolescent Psychology, having taught courses in the Bachelor's program "Psychology", Master's programs "Child and Adolescent and School Psychology (Diagnostics and Counselling)" and "General Psychology in English."

Unfortunately, I cannot share personal impressions of the candidate and her teaching, as I do not know her in this role.

VI. Conclusion

Assist. Prof. Svetlina Koleva is a lecturer with great experience and research potential. I find her to be an exceptionally suitable candidate for the position advertised in this competition. Her candidature meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. I recommend the members of the esteemed jury to propose her for election by the Faculty Council to the advertised post of Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology in Childhood and Adolescence).



Sofia

Assoc. Prof. Milena Mutafchieva, PhD

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