

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Daniel Lyudmilov Petrov, PhD

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Regarding the application of the following candidate **for the academic position of Associate Professor** at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in professional field **3.2. Psychology (Experimental Psychology and Psychodiagnostics)**, announced in the State Gazette, no. **24 of 17.03.2023**, for the needs of the Department of *General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology*, Faculty of Philosophy.

Candidate: Chief Assistant Professor Aneta Petrova Atanasova, PhD

Competition data

In the competition for Associate Professor in professional field **3.2. Psychology (Experimental Psychology and Psychodiagnostics)**, announced in the State Gazette, no. 24 of 17.03.2023, as the only candidate participated Chief Asst. Prof. Aneta Petrova Atanasova, PhD.

The set of materials submitted by the applicant includes all documents required by the procedure. Dr. Aneta Petrova Atanasova has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Act. 2b of Law On The Development Of Academic Staff In The Republic Of Bulgaria and Regulation of Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Details of the applicant

Chief Assistant. Professor Aneta Petrova Atanasova is an excellent scientist and lecturer at the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". She has held the positions of Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor in the same department. She also impresses with her active and various activities as a lecturer, researcher, consultant,

trainer, expert, supervisor and expert in scientific projects, etc. She is a respected scholar and highly qualified teacher in the field of competition.

Description of scientific works

The candidate participated in the procedure with the following 20 publications: one monograph, one published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of PhD, one article published in a journal refereed and indexed in world-known databases and 10 articles published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, 5 studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes and 2 chapters published as part of a collective monograph.

Scientific contributions

The scientific production proposed by the candidate is characterized by an extremely thorough and wide-ranging knowledge of the matter under study. The main work related to the procedure is the presented monograph by Aneta Petrova Atanasova from 2018 "Diagnosis and Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders" by University Press "St. Kliment Ohridski", with a volume of 469 pages. The monograph is the result of many years of research activity as well as the author's psychological practice with children and young people with autism spectrum disorder. The bibliographic reference includes 293 sources in Bulgarian, English and Russian. Autism spectrum disorder is examined through the major explanatory concepts and the areas of functioning: social behaviour and communication, intellectual and cognitive functioning, behaviour, independence and autonomy. The description of assessment methods and tools is of immense help to professionals in the field. The scientific information contained in the monograph is interpreted and integrated on the basis of a wide range of theoretical, diagnostic, methodological, therapeutic and purely practical aspects. This work is a systematic review of current and classic concepts, empirical research, diagnostic tools and psychotherapeutic practices. A serious contribution from an applied aspect is the inclusion of cases from the author's practical experience. The book has received numerous positive reviews from practitioners in the field, and further printings of the monograph by University Press are evidence of this.

Aneta Petrova Atanasova addresses the topic of the autism spectrum in a number of other scientific articles. The focus of her research and publishing activity (independently and in co-authorship) is: psychodiagnostics and assessment methods, psychological aspects of

inclusive education, dyslexia and other specific disorders at primary school age, postpartum depression, children's mental health, breastfeeding and child development, etc.

The applicant has reported 16 citations. Two of them are in journals indexed in world-renowned databases, three are in collective volumes, and 11 citations are found in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

She is the director of one research project and participates as an expert in another one.

Teaching work

The candidate has extensive teaching experience. She teaches at St. Kl. Ohridski" since 2000, which means that she has accumulated solid experience. Aneta Petrova Atanasova teaches courses at BA and MA levels. Over the years, she has supervised many successfully defended thesis from Bachelor and Master programs. Undoubtedly, the candidate's long and varied teaching experience is well suited to the specifics of the current competition, as well as to her research specialty.

Conclusion

After acquaintance with the submitted materials and scientific works of the candidate, as well as after analysis of their significance and contributions, I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to elect Chief Assistant Professor Aneta Petrova Atanasova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Experimental Psychology and Psychodiagnostics).

10 August 2023

Sofia

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