

(English translation)

REVIEWER'S OPINION

on Competition procedure for the position of Associate Professor in the field
3.2 Psychology (Experimental Psychology and Psychodiagnostics)

Announced by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Faculty of Philosophy in the State Gazette, issue 24 / 17.03.2023 and on the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski website

By Prof. Irina Zinovieva, DSc

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Faculty of Philosophy,
professional field 3.2 Psychology in her capacity of Scientific Jury Member established
following order RD-38-177_21.4.2023
of the Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

The **only candidate** who submitted documents for participation in the announced competition
is Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Petrova Atanasova, PhD.

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CANDIDACY

1. Submitted documents

For participation in the competition Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Atanasova, PhD presents all documents required by law and regulations for its application.

The documents submitted in the competition by the candidate fully comply with the requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the State Rules of Procedure for its application, and the Rules for Acquisition of

Scientific Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

2. Details of the candidate

Aneta Atanasova is a graduate of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In 2005, as a doctoral student at the Department of General, Developmental and Experimental Psychology, with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Emilia Aleksieva, PhD, she defended her dissertation on the topic "Identification of specific disorders of the ability to learn in primary school age" and received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 3.2 Psychology.

Dr. Atanasova has extensive contacts with various professional communities, among which she enjoys respect. She regularly participates in groups of medical professionals where she contributes her knowledge and skills in the field of developmental psychopathology. She has a significant consulting experience in psychodiagnostics, which is an advantage in the current competition.

Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Atanasova, PhD, regularly participates in teams of specialists in the field of education, and these teams contribute both to strategies for the development of certain aspects of the educational system, and create specific guides that are widely used in teaching practice.

Another aspect of the professional work of Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Atanasova, PhD, is related to the administration of justice. For years, she has been an expert to the court in cases related to psychodiagnosis of persons with disorders and normal persons.

3. General characteristics of the applicant's scientific work and assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

Publications. The total list of the candidate's publications includes two monographs, 32 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. There are also 14 participations in conferences with a published abstract, two of which are in English.

The scientific research of Ch. Assist. Prof. Aneta Atanasova, PhD, are mainly in the field of psychodiagnostics and work with people with disorders, some of the publications also contain research in the field of experimental psychology. Another significant part of the publications are psychological measurement instruments, as well as practical programs for application in educational institutions developed on the basis of the candidate's scientific research. For participation in the competition Ch. Assist. Prof. Aneta Atanasova, PhD, presented the

monograph "Diagnosis and assessment of autism spectrum disorders", published by University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", one article published in a Bulgarian journal, referenced and indexed in WoS and SCOPUS, one chapter of a book published in the USA, the rest are mostly Bulgarian scientific publications.

There are articles co-authored with scientists from other fields of science where it is difficult to assess the contribution of the candidate. But integration into multidisciplinary scientific teams is important for the implementation of psychological achievements in other fields of knowledge, as well as for enriching the arsenal of psychology.

Citations. Presented for this contest are 2 WoS citations of two articles; 3 citations in peer-reviewed collective volumes; 11 citations in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals. All of these exclude self-citations and are unused for previous competitions. The total number of points – **115**.

In conclusion:

a) the scientific works presented for the competition meet the minimum national requirements (under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB) and respectively the additional requirements of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 3.2 Psychology. The data are as follows: Under indicator B, a habilitation monograph in the field of the announced competition is presented, which brings **100 points**. In indicator C, from articles and extended articles, including those indexed in SCOPUS and Web of Science, described above, the candidate amasses **257,4 points**. Indicator D concerning citations yields **115 points**.

b) the scientific works submitted by the candidate do not repeat those of previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title or an academic position;

c) there is no established plagiarism in the scientific papers submitted for the competition.

4. Teaching activity of the candidate

Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Atanasova, Ph.D., has extensive experience in teaching as an assistant and chief assistant professor at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She gives the course Experimental Psychology - Part 2 in the bachelor's program in Psychology, for which the current competition has been announced. In the Master's program in Child and Adolescent Psychology, he gives a course on Diagnosis and Therapy of Specific Learning Disabilities. Other courses related to the theme of the competition, which are given by Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Atanasova, Ph.D. are "Basics of diagnostics" and "Psychotherapeutic approaches and interventions in clinical social work" in the Faculty of Pedagogy and the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts.

Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Atanasova is a demanding teacher who enjoys a good reputation among students.

5. Scientific contributions of the candidate

I believe that the author's own assessment, prepared by Dr. Atanasova, adequately represents her contributions.

I will discuss only a few of them here.

1. The monograph "Diagnosis and evaluation of disorders of the autism spectrum", presented as a habilitation work by Ch. Assit. Prof. Aneta Atanasova, PhD, summarizes a wide range of theoretical, diagnostic, methodical, therapeutic and purely practical sources and, on this basis, presents empirical studies, diagnostic tools and specific descriptions of recommended therapeutic practices regarding persons with above mentioned disorder.

2. Of great interest is an exploratory qualitative study focused on youth and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and trying to shed light on their understanding of interpersonal relationships, communication, and friendship. Semi-structured individual video interviews were conducted with three types of participants – the person with ASD oneself, a relative (parent) and a professional psychologist who works with the respondent. The theme "I and others" was analyzed, including as sub-themes: "How others are present in my mind", "Feedback", "Mutual impact" and others.

Studying the perspective of people with ASD and their loved ones on how they perceive human relationships is an important contribution to expanding clinical understanding of the condition and could be used in planning psychological, educational and other interventions supporting their well-being.

3. Research on the role of the psychologist in inclusive education conceptualizes and defines the main activities, roles and competencies that psychologists involved in the process of inclusive education should accomplish.

4. Conducted own empirical research on specific disorders of the ability to learn resulted in:

- development of a screening tool for specific learning disabilities;
- developing a program for early identification of these disorders and a specialized alternative training program.

II. CONCLUSION

Ch. Assistant Prof. Aneta Atanasova, PhD, is an established specialist in the field of Psychodiagnostics and Experimental Psychology. She enjoys the respect and appreciation of the academic community. With her scientific works, she made significant contributions to the field of psychological theory and practice. She also has extensive consulting experience.

The topics of her publications is in full accordance with the subject of the announced competition. The scientific accomplishments of the candidate fully satisfy the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Application, as well as the relevant Regulations of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" to acquire the academic position of "Associate Professor" and there is no plagiarism detected in her works.

Based on the above, I give my positive evaluation of her candidacy and am fully convinced that the scientific jury has all necessary reasons to propose to the competent body for candidate election - the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski - to elect Ch. Assistant Professor Aneta Petrova Atanasova, PhD in the academic position of Associate Professor, in the professional field 3.2 Psychology (Experimental Psychology and Psychodiagnostics).

July 25, 2023

Signature:

Prof. Irina Zinovieva, PhD, DSc