

## **OPINION**

By Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, PhD member of the scientific jury for awarding the ESD "Doctor" Professional field 3.2. Psychology, Social Psychology

On the dissertation: "Social role structure as a phenomenon of collective projection"

With author: Alexander Dobrev Petrov – PhD student at the Department of Social, Organizational, Clinical and Pedagogical Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

### **1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROCEDURE AND THE DOCTORAL STUDENT**

The procedure and the materials presented comply with the requirements of the Law of Academic Education of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." Alexander Dobrev Petrov has completed all activities outlined in his individual curriculum and has been granted the right to defend his dissertation.

Alexander Petrov is an exceptional professional in the field of psychiatry, with over 25 years of experience in medicine and mental health, demonstrating his dedication and commitment to patients. As the Head of the Department of Consultative Psychiatry and Liaison at the Clinic of Psychiatry of the Military Medical Academy in Sofia, he leads a team that provides high-quality psychiatric services and consultations.

His career began in 1992 when he graduated from the Medical Academy in Sofia. He has since undergone numerous specializations and additional training, including in neurology and psychiatry. Petrov is an active participant in clinical trials and serves as a co-investigator on several significant projects that have advanced the treatment of mental disorders.

He is not only a distinguished physician but also a trainer and consultant involved in projects aimed at improving the mental health of various populations, including vulnerable groups. His participation in international projects and collaboration with various organizations highlight his ability to work in a team and implement innovations in his practice.

Alexander Petrov is not just an expert in his field; he is also an inspiring figure who imparts his knowledge to new generations of psychiatrists. His role as the head of the Department of Consultative Psychiatry at the Military Medical Academy is crucial for training future specialists who will continue to advocate for the mental health of society.

In conclusion, Alexander Petrov is a recognized specialist whose experience and knowledge contribute significantly to the development of psychiatry in Bulgaria. His dedication and drive for improvement make him a valuable resource not only for patients but also for the entire medical community.

## **2. RELEVANCE OF THE PROBLEM**

Alexander Petrov's dissertation, titled "Social Role Structure as a Phenomenon of Collective Projection," is a significant contribution to the fields of psychoanalysis, sociology, and social psychology. The topic is highly relevant and important, particularly in the context of contemporary social changes and dynamics that influence individual and collective psychology. The dissertation addresses a crucial yet under-researched issue in modern society, despite its interdisciplinary nature and social significance.

The scientific work is characterized by its comprehensive and intricate structure, examining how individual mental processes are projected into the extrapersonal sphere, thereby forming the socio-role structure. Petrov offers a new interpretation of the concept of "collective projection," emphasizing the

phenomenological order of individual projections rather than viewing them through the lens of an abstract collective entity. This original perspective is supported by extensive discourse from psychoanalysis, including concepts from Lacan and Freud, as well as contemporary psychoanalytic theory.

The topic chosen by doctoral student Alexander Petrov is pertinent because it represents a confluence of several interconnected issues, each of which holds unique significance for the science of psychology and its specific branches. The work skillfully balances theoretical foundations with practical applications, which is particularly essential for understanding social phenomena. Petrov underscores that the role structure of society is not merely a distribution of socio-economic capacities but also a redistribution of individual mental capacities, offering a new and important understanding of the dynamics between the individual and the community.

The text "Social Role Structure as a Phenomenon of Collective Projection" explores the concept of collective projection in the context of psychoanalysis, emphasizing individual projections and their influence on the extrapersonal space. It investigates how the psychic structuring of the individual, through the interplay of language and identifications, shapes the social-role structure, representing a symbolic order of relations in society.

The primary focus is on the dynamics of desire and how individual psychic capacities are redistributed within social spaces through role positions. The text highlights that role structuring not only allocates socio-economic resources but also enables individuals to transcend their limitations by sharing capacities.

The concept of the "Social Subject," which embodies the accumulated expectations of individuals toward the social structure, is also discussed. The

emergence of role structures is analyzed in the context of various dynamics and interactions, with an emphasis on the autonomy and self-regulation of social space.

The work also references Bulgarian authors, exploring the continuity of the concept of "transpersonality" and its connection to both individual and social psyche. The text offers new perspectives for understanding the relationship between the individual and society, emphasizing the complexity of psychic and social structures and their interrelationships.

### **3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION DEVELOPMENT**

The dissertation includes three main chapters that sequentially examine the structuring factors of community, psychic structures, and role delegation. Alexander Petrov provides a thorough and insightful thematic overview, presenting key aspects necessary for establishing the foundational framework and core concepts of the study.

In the first chapter, Petrov offers a detailed examination of the factors that structure community, including instinctual, socio-economic, and identificational influences. This section is particularly valuable as it contextualizes the understanding of individual identity and role positions within society.

The second chapter deepens the analysis of the individual psychic structure and its interaction with the extrapersonal structure. Petrov explores the concept of the "Social Subject" and how individual intention shapes social space. Here, the author provides important practical examples that illustrate his theoretical hypotheses.

The third chapter addresses the self-differentiating role structure and the dynamics of interactions between individuals and the social subject. Petrov introduces new concepts that enhance the understanding of social roles and their significance in the processes of socialization and identification.

#### 4. CONTRIBUTIONS

Alexander Petrov's work presents important innovations in the understanding of collective projection and the role structure of society. He successfully connects theoretical concepts with the practical realities of social interactions, which is crucial for expanding the boundaries of psychoanalytic and sociological theory. The dissertation meets academic requirements for depth and originality while also offering new perspectives for future research in the field.

In conclusion, Petrov's work is a significant contribution to the knowledge base in social psychology and psychoanalysis. His analysis of the social role structure as a phenomenon of collective projection is innovative and provides valuable insights into the complex dynamics between individuals and their social contexts. Undoubtedly, this work will be a valuable resource for researchers, students, and practitioners in psychology, sociology, and social work.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

1. A significant topic is presented that has great practical applicability.
2. The dissertation has been developed in accordance with the requirements for writing this type of scientific work, with precise and conscientious analysis and processing of theoretical findings.
3. No plagiarism has been identified; the text is original and complies with APA Style guidelines.
4. The abstract follows the dissertation's content and accurately reflects the research, results obtained, and their analysis.
5. Relevant independent publications related to the scientific problems discussed in the dissertation have been presented.

**These arguments provide valuable reason for me to vote "YES" with conviction and to propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award to Alexander**

**Dobrev Petrov the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, Professional field 3.2. Psychology, Social Psychology.**

**Date: .....**

**Opinion by: .....**

**/Assoc. Prof. B. Yordanova, PhD/**