

## OPINION

regarding the procedure for awarding the educational and scientific degree  
"Doctor", in the professional field: 3.2. "Psychology",  
scientific specialty "Social Psychology"  
of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

This opinion has been prepared on the basis of the Order of the Rector of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" RD-38-91/19.02.2025 for the appointment of a scientific jury for the procedure for public defense of a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the doctoral program Social Psychology in 3.2 Psychology, 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, and is in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, the Higher Education Act, as well as the current Internal Rules of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".

***Dissertation topic:*** Social Role Structure as a Phenomenon of Collective Projection.

***Prepared the opinion:*** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natasha Virmozelova Angelova, Department of Psychology, South -West University "Neofit Rilski".

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*The dissertation "Social Role Structure as a Phenomenon of Collective Projection" has been discussed and proposed for public defense by the Department of " Social, Organizational, Clinical and Pedagogical Psychology " at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".*

## **1. Characteristics of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied production**

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, recommendations, conclusion, contributions and literature. The work includes 2 tables. The work contains a total of 210 standard pages, the cited literature contains 62 scientific sources, in Cyrillic and Latin.

In the introductory part, doctoral candidate Alexander Petrov presents his motivations for scientific work related to revealing the relationship between community and the structuring of personality through social roles and collective projection. The author presents his understanding that there are socially significant phenomena that go beyond the explanatory framework of individual psychology and psychopathology and point to processes generated by the community itself.

In a time of extraordinary technological progress, this doctoral dissertation returns us to searching for and expressing ourselves through the roles we occupy in society and through whose functions we build an image of ourselves, serving as an "image" presenting us in a certain way (sometimes well-aware and purposefully developed) and through which we influence the formation and functioning of the society to which we belong.

The development is interesting in that the author offers a psychoanalytic understanding in describing the formation of personality through the functioning and interaction with the social environment, without being limited by the trend in psychological research tied to the study of a specific number of variables schematically describing the relationships between the theories that develop them.

The significance of the scientific work lies in the smooth transition through the different layers of personal structuring and the deepening in each of them. The main line is most valuable, there the doctoral student develops related to the mental structuring of the individual, leading to the achievement of mental integrity, which is projected into the suprapersonal space by structuring a symbolic order of relationships, described by the author as a structure of role relationships.

The author develops the idea of interaction with the community allowing the formation of this symbolic order of role structures, through which capacities are shared and opportunities are realized. The dissertation draws attention to the fact that role positions in the community do not simply distribute socio-economic capacities, but also through them a redistribution of individual psychic capacities is carried out.

In this way, the suprapersonal social space is a factor for structuring the personality, and also the self.

In the first chapter, Alexander Petrov has traced the structuring factors of the community, has reviewed the classification and description of communities according to various criteria and signs, and has also examined the public space structure, where social communities can be described by the degree of real connectedness between the members of the community. The doctoral student has defined identity as a phenomenon of the interaction between the self-concept and the social role. He has paid special attention to the hypothesis of the theme of incest, also pointing to the Oedipus situation. He has gradually developed this hypothesis as an argument for transferring the driving force of the individual drive from the personality to the suprapersonal social space and its role as a structuring factor of the community. He has drawn attention to the fact that what is regulated by the community is not simply sexual behavior, but the regulation of what is inherited. He presents inheritance as the initial factor of social differentiation, which are regulated within the framework of a primary social dynamic.

In the second chapter, the hypothesis of the continuity, mutual conditionality and relatively autonomous functioning of these structurings is developed. The author considers the existing and the psyche as a series of realities inscribed in each other. He traces the process of formation of structures, which on the one hand are related to the psyche and behavior of the individual and, on the other hand, with the formation of a structure in which interpersonal, community - social functioning takes place. The author substantiates the role character of this organization, focusing on the fact that in practice the symbolic order of the psychic organization is transferred through its objectification in roles, into the field of the social, and also distinguishes three types of "dynamic" role figures - the role itself, role position and role niche. He also describes two types of role positions: the first is related to the consequences of early deprivation, leading to association or mixing with socially proposed roles, and the second is the actual creative integration of a social role, which occurs after the consolidation of the Self, which is why role-based social relations are also possible. In this context, Alexander Petrov emphasizes the essentiality of such a position, which reflects both the already established ability to perceive the Other as an individual, and the ability to accept social positions that are integrated as a role. As the doctoral student correctly notes, the permanent occupation of a role position as a result of environmental pressure is observed more often with some weakness of the Self as a result of the specific features in the development of the individual. Here, the doctoral student also points out the positive aspects of the role structuring of the

community - namely as a field for redistribution of available capacities of individuals in the community.

The third chapter proposes a distinction between the concepts of “transfer” and “delegation”. The author notes that the former relates to the unconscious processes of the individual, commenting on their influence on behavior and on the effective acts of the individual, resulting in his participation in the structuring of his suprapersonal space – society. By “delegation” he understands the conscious “giving away” of personal potential through the development of individual social roles, which through their distribution in the community also create the role structure of society. Alexander Petrov assumes that the two concepts are summarized as a phenomenon of “giving away” of this personal psychic potential to the community. According to him, this dynamic reflects the result of the processes of conscious giving away of personal potential. This is also the case with regard to professional roles and social statuses. With regard to the unconscious aspects of this phenomenon, he views society as a place from which the individual’s desire or need is expected to be satisfied. Thus, the role organization of the community in a certain sense repeats in the post-psychic space of the society what “happens” at the psychic level of the individual – a “reflection” of the processes while the next role organization is structured. The author considers the emergence of the institution from a socio-psychological point of view as a place where social role interaction actually takes place. The interaction in which the two intentions meet – that of the individual and again that of the individual, but now as a phenomenon of general concepts, that is, of the social subject. In this way, the interactions of the individual role with social roles, the doctoral student notes, establish the institutional role. He discusses the importance of a role interaction between an individual and a community, related to the ability to know. He considers that the issues surrounding knowledge and more precisely the human perspective of the relationship between the subject, knowledge and its truth or “objectivity” can be considered in different discourses. In the present discourse, the subject of the study is the relationship between the subject of the individual and the subject of the community. Alexander Petrov examines how the validation of concepts as true and actual occurs and draws attention to the dynamics of this validation - whether the field of validation is "drawn" more towards the individual or towards society and whether something "third" is also introduced.

The chapter "Conclusion" reflects the main and significant moments of the theoretical study, which is distinguished by its exceptional depth and multifacetedness, realized through Lacanian psychoanalytic discourse.

The contributions are mainly theoretical, but the experienced Lacanian psychoanalyst could undoubtedly integrate them into his or her practice.

The content of the abstract corresponds to that of the dissertation. The publications are described in the dissertation and the abstract, are sufficient in number and correspond to the minimum national requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

## **2. Technical performance**

The scientific work is not structured according to the popular model for such studies, which to some extent makes it difficult to perceive and conceptualize the information provided. This undoubtedly affects the evaluation of the work and therefore there is a possibility that a smaller sample of interested persons will connect with the information provided. To a large extent, the style of expression through specialized terms for the Lacanian psychoanalytic perspective and additionally through sentences without a verb significantly contribute to the difficulty of perception and difficulty in understanding the information.

## **3. Conclusion**

The presented scientific work shows that doctoral student Alexander Dobrev Petrov possesses in-depth knowledge of the topic of the dissertation. I believe that the scientific work meets the conditions and procedure for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" under the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".

I accept the dissertation work of Alexander Dobrev Petrov on the topic "Social Role Structure as a Phenomenon of Collective Projection" as completed and propose to the members of the scientific jury to support the procedure for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", in the professional field: 3.2. "Psychology", scientific specialty "Social Psychology".

01.04.2025

city Blagoevgrad

Signature:

(Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D.)