

## OPINION

for the works of Senior Lecturer Dr. KAMELIA DONCHEVA HANCHEVA  
and Senior Lecturer Dr. MANOL NICHOLOV MANOLOV -  
participants in the *associate professor* competition  
in the professional field

3.2.PPSYCHOLOGY / PSYCHOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN  
AND ADOLESCENTS /, Higher Education Area 3. Social, business and legal  
sciences and national security, announced in the State Gazette issue  
65/16/06/2019, announced for the needs of the Department of General,  
Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology  
of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

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### **1. Contest information.**

The competition was announced by the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the needs of the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy, and in the provision of the reference for the hours of the department the disciplines providing the needs of the faculty in the indicated field.

During the preparation of the competition review, the main documents, which comply with the requirements of the normative base for the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", have been taken into account.

There are no violations of the competition procedure. Two candidates participate in the competition - Senior Lecturer Dr. Kamelia Doncheva Hancheva, Lecturer at Sofia University, Department of General, Experimental Development and Health Psychology and Senior Lecturer Dr. Manol Nikolov Manolov, Lecturers in the Department of Psychology at *St. Cyril and St. Methodius* University of Veliko Tarnovo.

### **2. Information about the applicants.**

The first candidate for the competition is Senior Lecturer Dr. Kamelia Hancheva, born in Varna, graduated from the English high school in Varna, later a master's program in Psychology at Sofia University, specialized in Organizational Psychology, Clinical and Counseling Psychology, Developmental Psychology. During the period 1998-2007 she received many additional qualifications and was a psychodrama therapist and family and marriage consultant. Since 2013 has been a Doctor of Psychology /Age and Pedagogical Psychology/. She has extensive clinical and consultative practice and has been working at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University since 1999. In the period 2013-2018 was a part-time lecturer at the International Psychoanalytic University in Berlin, Germany in master's programs. She has indicated in her resume numerous specializations, additional qualifications,

upgrading trainings, certified by administrative documents. She speaks and uses 5 languages to varying degrees and has extensive practical experience in project work. She is a member of prestigious professional associations and organizations.

The other candidate for associate professor Senior Lecturer Dr. Manol Manolov graduated with a degree in Psychology from the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, as well as a master's degree from the same university. In 2018 defended a PhD in Social Psychology at the University of St. Cyril and St. Methodius UNiveristy of Veliko Tarnovo, working in 2017 as an assistant and senior lecturer at the Department of Psychology at VTU. Previously, he worked as a psychologist at the CSSTDMU - Asenovgrad, and subsequently as a manager of the same service, as a public tutor, court expert, at the BCCI. He is a member of several NGOs and professional organizations. He has mentioned numerous trainings in which he has participated or has been a trainer, with a rich project activity. In his professional biography, he indicated knowledge of two foreign languages.

### **3. Description and evaluation of scientific works.**

The candidate Senior Lecturer Dr. Kamelia Hancheva participated in the competition with 14 publications, including 1 habilitation work, 1 monograph based on drfended work, four participations in books / book chapter /, 8 articles, studies and papers, which are substantially in line with the competition announced. Five citations and nine participations in national and international educational projects were also cited. In the full list of publications, a significant proportion of them have the same focus, namely the interpretation of problems in child and adolescent psychology.

The first and major review monograph "Mentalization and early stages of socio-emotional development" addresses the problems of education, socialization and child development through the prism of the psychoanalytic paradigm, backed by three myths - the myths of Orpheus, Zeus and Narcissus, intertwined. with contemporary leading psychological theories, many refined terms and concepts, illustrative material, authorized translations, and a classic structure of four logically connected chapters that end in an open end.

More important summary of the monograph:

- Scientific concepts and terminology translated and popularized in an accessible language, which are strictly followed in historical and contemporary terms;
- Conceptualized author's hypotheses and an adequate experimental array to prove the assumptions made;
- Analytically interpreted cognitive, psychoanalytic and neurological studies organized around the search for mechanisms that reflect the understanding of the subjectivity of one's own experiences and the experiences of others.
- Current questions are raised with possible alternatives to the readers, thus they become a kind of co-authors of the work and provoke a return to the

details of the text, to their own reflections, provoked by the pursuit of knowledge.

The second monograph “The Child, the Family and the Inner World. Attitudinal psychoanalytic theories of development” by its title sets the direction of the author's research. The book is the result of a defended dissertation and makes it possible to promote the defended work of Dr. Hancheva. The author's ability to analyze known and not so popular theoretical views, the structure of the development, the precise statement, the ease with which she deals with concepts, terms and theoretical models are impressive. Knowledge of the specific children's world is evident through the interpretation of human relationships and their constructive, shaping role for children's development.

Four participations in collective monographs: **1.** Hancheva, C. (2018). Child Refugee: Transition, migration, and transitional phenomena. In A. Hamburger, C. Hancheva, S. Ozcuremec, C. Scher, B. Stankovic, S. Tutnjevic (Eds.), *Forced Migration and Social Trauma: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Psychoanalysis, Psychology, Sociology and Politics* (pp. 149-158). London, New York: Routledge. **2.** Hancheva, C. (2018). Narratives in the family: history spoken and elided – theoretical considerations and initial observations on a Bulgarian sample. In A. Hamburger (Ed.), *Trauma, Trust, and Memory: Social Trauma and Reconciliation in Psychoanalysis, Psychotherapy, and Cultural Memory* (pp. 61-68). London, New York: Routledge. **3.** Hancheva, C., Hamburger, A., & Scher, C. (2018). International Master Study Course Social Trauma. In A. Hamburger (Ed.), *Trauma, Trust, and Memory: Social Trauma and Reconciliation in Psychoanalysis, Psychotherapy, and Cultural Memory* (pp. 249-254). London, New York: Routledge. **4.** Hancheva, C. (2018). Child Refugees: Workshop Results. In A. Hamburger, C. Hancheva, S. Ozcuremec, C. Scher, B. Stankovic, S. Tutnjevic (Eds.), *Forced Migration and Social Trauma: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Psychoanalysis, Psychology, Sociology and Politics* (pp. 196-206). London, New York: Routledge., as book chapters address issues related to: refugee children and the impact of trauma from violence, coercion, loss, as well as mechanisms, factors for dealing with trauma and protections related to integrating outward and inward experiences; summarizing the expertise of working with refugee children with a clear outline of processing and survival mechanisms in a psychoanalytic context; the role of the individual narrative of the event experienced from the point of view of an actor, listener, narrator and the reflection of that event in the development of the individual, interpreted in historical and socio-cultural terms; defining and analyzing social trauma and seeking to reach that knowledge to professionals and learners through teaching it as a discipline. Impressive is the depth of analysis, attitude to the issues and the precise statement of the candidate.

I would divide the articles, studies and scientific papers into two directions: 1. Problems related to child-adolescent psychology and 2. Problem areas related to specific mechanisms, technologies, methods of providing psychological assistance to clients. Summarizing in one sentence, it can be argued that Dr. Hancheva is a mature scientist with a committed position, precise, correct in

references and interpretations, with a clear statement and demonstrating an enviable psychological culture.

The candidate Senior Lecturer Dr. Manol Manolov in the competition for associate professor presents a list of scientific works from almost all scientific genres, among them one independent monograph, designated as habilitation and two in co-authorship, 5 articles, study papers, three of which in co-authorship and two separate. Although the award of the scientific title "Associate Professor" does not require the involvement of the participations and project management, we do not calculate their points, but it is necessary to note that Dr. Manolov has participations in national and international projects, mainly with a social focus and is the Head of a national educational project "Conceptualizing Forms of Social Inheritance in Children from 3 to 8 Years of age" at the Research Fund /Reference from NACID/. His other non-peer-reviewed publications are predominantly social-oriented, although they carry aspects of developmental psychology.

In his seminal work "Self-Discrimination", V.Tarnovo, IVIS, cited by the author as a habilitation and identified by him as useful for social, political and organizational psychology, he addresses problems that really fall into the above fields and are not related with the announced competition. These areas of concern have been named by Dr. Manolov as fundamental to modern society, and one of the most significant is precisely discrimination. He introduces the concept, convincingly defines it and defends it, and claims to verify it as a behavioral model in modern society. Analyzes of historical events and texts make it possible to defend his thesis and to "illuminate" the notion of self-discrimination, refined through the search for the social identity of the modern person. The work itself is valuable, interesting, contemporary, touches on socio-psychological problems in an original way, experiences based on stereotyping, prejudice and other protective mechanisms, including self-discrimination, but it must be emphasized that research and interpretation have too few points of contact with developmental psychology in childhood and adolescence.

The monograph "The Many Faces of I (An Image for Self in Modern Reality)", Sofia, Kolbis, 2019, co-authored with Margarita Bakracheva, correctly divided by protocol, addresses the problems of adolescents and young people. It is a well structured and convincingly contemporary piece of work that incorporates the classic trinity of theory, methodology and recommended interventions /practices/ to optimize young people development based on quantitative and qualitative analysis. Characteristic of each of the five chapters of the book is the independently organized and conducted research, which is subordinated to the theoretical array of the chapter. This is an interesting approach, however, which creates a feeling of lack of coherence and integrity of the work. On the other hand, these are essays that lead to "the many faces of the Self", supplemented from different perspectives. They are valuable for the practical psychological work with young people.

The third monograph “Psychology of parenting styles in the field of life meaning”, V.Tarnovo, University Publishing House “St. Cyril and Methodius”, co-authored with Ivan Stoyanov, is very close to the announced competition, but here the lack of a separation protocol makes it difficult to separate the author's titles. The monograph was discussed in the Department of Psychology of VTU and included in the publishing plan of the Faculty of Philosophy. It is an in-depth study of parenting styles in today's multi-ethnic society. Well-designed research, combined with a serious theoretical pavement, allow us to track trends in Bulgarian society that raise current issues regarding educational models, family-community-school interactions, the influence of the mass media, personal example and other socializing factors. The style of information presented is accessible, readable and the conclusions drawn are a prerequisite for the creation of effective programs for working with children and families.

Other papers and articles proposed for peer review may relate to supplementing and furthering the author's views on various aspects of social development, and rather fall into the field of social psychology.

4. Scientometric indicators.

**Senior Lecturer Dr. Kamelia Hancheva.**

Dr. K.Hancheva covers the minimum requirements for the PURPNSZAD of the Sofia University for the occupation of the academic position of "Assistant Professor" with the total number of points in the groups of indicators A, C, D, E, E - 657,6. They are proved by the relevant references for quotations, participation in SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE.

**Senior Lecturer Dr. Manol Manolov** declares participation in the competition with:

- Defended thesis, recognized in NACID;
- One monograph - habilitation work;
- Two published monographs that are not presented as major rehabilitation works / co-authored /;
- Five articles, studios and papers;
- Seven citations;
- One participation in a national educational project - project manager /reference from NACID /. Total - 507, 5 by criteria.

**5. Scientific contributions.**

**For Dr. Kamelia Hancheva:**

I fully accept the applicant's formulated contributions, summarizing them as follows:

1. Rethinking, summarizing and refining known knowledge related to different approaches in psychology, while giving new meaning and evidence by illustrating examples, case studies based on qualitative analysis.

2. Searching for and analyzing the personal meaning in the experiences of social events, in order to experience traumas and outline directions for

overcoming them, which is also the meaning of psychology as a theoretical and practical science.

3. Theoretical comprehension of a number of processes, techniques, models and methods related to psychotherapy practice and creation of perspectives for future training of specialists in the field.

4. Tracking and understanding the role of parents in the lives of children as a model, figure, example, moving out of the model of counseling and support for families, and seeking a systemic context and integrated approach in the implementation of the parent-child-society interaction.

#### **For Dr. Manol Manolov:**

1. Famous theories and not so popular ones have been rethought and presented in a new way, and an attempt has been made to introduce new sound - discrimination, aggressive behavior, parenting styles. At the same time, some of the hypotheses have been proved experimentally and analytically.

2. Through the prism of interpreting historical and literary texts, conclusions have been drawn that relate to the folk-psychological and ethno-psychological traits of the Bulgarian in different roles, incl. and in his role as a parent.

3. Outlined and protected by data is the thesis about the importance of family and parenting styles for the development of the child in the life of Bulgarian society.

4. Through almost all works the author's commitment to the social problems explored is evident, and his motivation for analyzing his chosen phenomenon, fact, event, supported by psychological and sociological theories, presented in a new original way, is clearly defined.

#### **6. Teaching work.**

The teaching work of Dr. Kamelia Hancheva has been over 22 years. Has taught the following subjects - undergraduate programs at Sofia University - Seminars in Age Psychology Part I and Age Psychology Part II in Psychology, General Age and Pedagogical Psychology in Social Activities. In master's programs - lectures on Family Counseling, Injury in Development, Working in Group I, Chronic Illness and Palliative Care, etc.

The teaching work of Dr. Manol Manolov is focused at VTU "St. Cyril and Methodius" (more than 2 years), where he conducts seminars in Social Psychology, Legal Psychology, Psychology of Development in Child-Adolescence, Comparative Psychology, Political Psychology, Ethno-Psychology, Psychological Studies in Bachelor Degree and Lecture Courses Social and Ethnic Conflicts, Business Psychology, Social Psychology and Ethnopsychology in Bachelor's, Master's and Master's Degree Programs.

The requirements of the competition corresponds more to the professional experience and qualification of the first candidate (Dr. Kamelia Hancheva), since they are mainly in the field of Developmental Psychology, while for the second candidate the professional experience is taken in the field of Social

Psychology. This is evident from the information provided on the academic load of the competition for associate professor.

### **7. Notes and Recommendations.**

Having acquainted myself with the overall scientific and academic activity of the two candidates for the competition for associate professor in Psychology of Development in Childhood and Adolescence, I can make the following recommendations:

**To Senior Lecturer Dr. Kamelia Hancheva** - they are related to deepening her research in her chosen scientific field. The second recommendation concerns the development and publishing of teaching aids in the subjects she has taught to support the preparation of students.

**To Senior Lecturer Dr. Manol Manolov** - my first recommendation is to refine his publishing activity, to strictly adhere to the scientific genres, especially as regards monographic research. My second recommendation is to refine his works with clearly identifiable titles. Third, it is difficult for me to relate the applicant's work to the professional field of Childhood and Adolescent Developmental Psychology, as they are more oriented towards social, political psychology and ethno-psychology.

### **8. Conclusion.**

Expressing my impressions and analyzes of the overall scientific, expert, teaching and applied achievements of the two candidates, assessing the relevance and importance of their development, I give my positive vote to Senior lecturer Dr. **Kamelia Doncheva Hancheva** and recommend to the Scientific Jury proposed to the Faculty Board to award her the scientific title "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (PSYCHOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN-YOUNG PEOPLE), higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences and national security.

December 18, 2019  
Veliko Tarnovo

Signature: / ...../  
/prof. Dr.Kr. Petrova /