

## OPINION

for election of an associate professor in a professional field: 1.2 Pedagogy (Pedagogical sociology, Social adaptation and maladaptation), announced for the needs of Sofia University

**Author of the opinion:** Prof. Klavdia Sapundjieva, Sofia University

Only one candidate participates in the competition - ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Silvia Varbanova Varbanova. The competition was announced in SG, issue. 22 of 16. 03. 2021. There are no violations of the procedure, and the presented set of documents is in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of Sofia University. The candidate meets the national requirements for participation in the competition.

### **1. Biographical data and teaching status**

Silvia Varbanova was born in 1959. She graduated in Pedagogy at Sofia University in 1981. She has been a Doctor of Pedagogy since 2006. She has been a Chief Assistant in Pedagogy at Sofia University since 1989. Silvia Varbanova is a lecturer with various academic activities, trainer and leader of various courses and trainings. She has completed three qualification courses and participated in various research projects. The competition is provided with the necessary hours and lecture courses.

### **2. Scientific creativity and contributions of the candidate**

Silvia Varbanova is the author of a total of 35 publications from various scientific genres. She participated in the competition with 20 publications - 2 books, 3 studies, 3 articles in refereed and indexed editions, 9 articles and reports in non-refereed but scientifically edited editions, 3 textbooks.

The main habilitation work "Individuality in the mirrors of postmodern times", 2021 is dedicated to current issues related to the influences of postmodern times on the formation of standards, ideas and values that determine the understanding and expression of individuality and identity. A successful theoretical analysis of changed realities and postmodern times has been made. The individualization of public life and the peculiarities of the process of socialization are presented. The main ideas and analyzes are related to the issues of identity construction both as a theory and as one's own research, conducted on the model of M. Berzonsky, supplemented by the author with another subscale for revealing autonomy. The priority values of young people today are presented, the postmodern fears that hinder social adaptation are revealed. The main factors of socialization in the network of contemporary contextual influences - family, education, media - are also analyzed. The work has *a real contribution* both to the theoretical, conceptual understanding of the problems of socialization and social adaptation of young people, and to their empirical evidence, based on long-term research with great scope. *A contribution* with a resource for future research is the analysis of trends in contemporary realities and their impact on the construction of identity.

The second monograph is based on the dissertation. New research has been added that expands the dissertation text. The research focus is related to the analysis of the relations equality-individualization-differentiation in education. These are topics that are particularly relevant and with potential for further future research.

The other publications cover various thematic fields of pedagogy, within which the following *contributions* can be summarized:

- Problems of the parent-child relationship and their influence on the formation of identity and the process of socialization (3, 4, 14, etc.).
- Inequalities in education - origin and dynamics (2, 5, 8, etc.).
- Problems of teaching and education - formal and non-formal education, e-learning and digitalization, education as a symbolic space and the hidden curriculum (1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20).
- Training programs for professionals to work with children and youth, coping with stress in a professional environment (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, etc.).

The publications are on the topic of the competition. The positive fact is that the candidate has publications in international editions in English.

The overall summary of the achievements of the candidate for associate professor is reflected in the contributions, which are reliable and correct. A list with a sufficient number of citations, corresponding to the required indicators, is also presented.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

Although I take into account the specific interests and the dominant research idea of the influence of socio-contextual factors, I would recommend a future larger and more comprehensive theoretical and historical study in the field of pedagogical sociology.

**4. Summary:** Silvia Varbanova is a researcher with interests in the current pedagogical problems of modern realities, in the socialization and formation of

the individual, in modern practices in education. She is a respected colleague and teacher with many years of experience.

**5. Conclusion:** Based on the mentioned scientific achievements, the position of the candidate among the academic community, his overall teaching activity and academic activity, I give my **positive assessment** and propose that Silvia Varbanova be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ", by professional field: 1. 2 Pedagogy (Pedagogical sociology, Social adaptation and maladaptation).

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