

STATEMENT

About the scientific and teaching work of assoc. prof. Monika Bogdanova, D-r Habill., for her participation in the procedure for academic degree professor in professional field 3.4 Social work (Consulting and professional orientation in social work with children and families), announced in State Newspaper 54/29.06.2021 for the needs of Sofia University, Faculty of education.

From **assoc. prof. Bozhidara Iskрева Kriviradeva, PhD**, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, member of the scientific panel, stated in Rector’ order No PД – 38-294/05.07.2021

The procedure for the present competition is in concordance with the Law for the development of the academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria and with the Regulations of Sofia University for the requirements and procedures for acquisition of scientific degrees and scientific jobs. There is only one candidate in the competition, which is also admitted – assoc. prof. Monika Borisova Bogdanova, D-r Habil. The materials presented by the candidate are inline with the requirements of the competition.

Professional biography of the candidate.

The candidate Monika Bogdanova is an alumni of Sofia University. She graduated in 2001 with masters degree in Pedagogy of deviant behaviour. In 2004 she successfully gain a post-graduate qualification in Psychology with a specialization in “Psychology of development and consultation of children and adolescents”, and since 2006 she is PhD in education in field 05.07.01 Theory of education and didactics (Foundation of social work). Monika Bogdanova gained her d-r Habill. Degree in 2015 as Doctor of educational sciences in professional field 1.2. Education (Profesional orientation and consultation of children and adolescents with specific needs).

Since 1998 till now Monika Bogdanova has been an active participant in different specializations in Bulgaria and abroad (Austria, France, Germany), which are related to her teaching activities – Summer school for teachers (2006) in Kiten, along with trainings related to her scientific interests – psychoanalysis, psychoanalytical psychotherapy, individual psychoanalytical psychodrama; prevention of child abandoning, work with children with asocial behavior, functions of different social institutions across the world, etc.

Professional path of Monika Bogdanova is closely related to Faculty of Education as she was appointed as an assistant professor in it in 2005 at Didactics department. In 2007 she was appointed as a senior assistant professor in the same faculty at Social work department, and from 2010 she is and an associated professor.

It is evident that Monika Bogdanova's professional path is also closely related to social work as she also worked as a community mentor at the Local commission for fight against antisocial behaviour of minors and adolescents, as an educational councilor at 120 primary school "Georgi Sava Rakovski", as a psychologist at SOS Childrens' fund, as an educator at House for children deprived of parental care "Asen Zlatarov", as a psychoanalyst, therapist, supervisor, trainer at Specialized hospital for prolonged treatment and rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy. She is also a principal of therapeutic – training center "Green yard".

Monika Bogdanova is also a member of Bulgarian association for education in social, in Bulgarian psychoanalytic society, and in Bulgarian association for psychotherapy, also being a chair of its Governing council.

Assoc. prof. Monika Bogdanova has been a member of study-scientific laboratory for experimental and professional pedagogy "Prof. Petar Noykov" at the Faculty of Education since 2006. Since 2015 she leads the Career center at the same faculty. As a member of both organizations she develops and implements projects in different fields, which create connections between schools and other training institutions for the students in all three specialties (Pedagogy, Social work, and Nonformal education). Those projects are also related to raising students' motivation for active participation in academic life of the faculty, as well as their career and academic planning and professional realization. Since her appointment at Faculty of education Monika Bogdanova has implemented 42 national and international projects in her respective scientific fields of interest, which also fall within the scope of the present procedure – consultation and professional orientation in social-pedagogical work with children and families.

Since 2001 assoc. prof. Monika Bogdanova has participated in 107 conferences and work-tables, 20 of which are international or with international participation. For the past several years she has regularly participated in Days of Françoise Dolto in Bulgaria. What makes a really good impression is the fact that Monika Bogdanova creates an active cooperation with the practice fields in the area of her academic expertise and constantly seeks the intercepts between theory and practice. These are confirmed by the fact that she organizes and implements five practice trainings at Bachelor and three such at Masters level. She improves and

innovates 12 programs and courses, three of which are in co-authorship. For the last school year Monika Bogdanova has been the leader of the team which organizes the final state practice of students in Social work, and since 2006 she is part of that team. She also implemented a project, which aimed at analyzing the current condition of the overall practice education of students in that specialty and to continue and deepen the connection with potential employers. One of her strengths is the good collaboration within different scientific field and in her scientific activity which can be seen in her publications for the present procedure. Long-term scientific interests aim at career consultation and professional orientation of different target groups, HR, clinical social work with children with specific (special) needs, psychoanalysis and social work with babies and small children,

Assoc.prof. Bogdanova has mentored 4 PhD students, 3 of which has already successfully defended their theses. All 4 work in the fields of the current procedure. Since 2008 Monika Bogdanova has mentored over 80 master and bachelor degree theses, she has prepared over 5 statements and reviews for academic jobs competitions, and over 25 reviews of bachelor and masters degrees works.

Scientific indicators and content of publications of the candidate

According to the documents for the procedure, Monika Bogdanova fulfills all the minimal requirements for academic title “professor” in the respective scientific field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional subfield 3.4.”Social work”.

In group A the requirement is to have 50 points from a PhD degree. Such degree is registered at the National center for information and documentation – “Foster family as an alternative form for raising and up-bringing of children deprived of parental care”. <https://cris.nacid.bg/public/scientist-preview/37858>

In Group B (not obligatory) the candidate has presented a defended dissertation and an acquired academic degree “doctor of educational sciences” with title “Synergy model for professional orientation and consultation of children and adolescents with specific needs”. It is also registered at the National center. This work has become the basis for the monograph “Professional orientation of children with specific needs. Or the fairytale for the ugly duckling and the black swan”.

In Group C the total number of point for the candidate is 100 of 100 as Monika Bogdanova has presented a published monograph – a habilitation work named “The baby, The child and their language”, 2017.

In Group D the total amount of points for the candidate is 573,75 for required 200. In D4 indicator there are two monographs presented with total contribution of 200 points. In D4 indicator there is a published book based on the dissertation for Doctor of Educational sciences with total of 75 points. In D6 indicator the candidate presents two publications in Scopus and Web of Science referenced journals with total contributions of 30 points. The rest of the indicators will not be described in detail here.

In Group E the total amount of points of the candidate is 365 for 100 points required. In E10 there are 10 citations with the total amount of 150 points. Considering the fact that Pedagogy journal has been indexed in international databases after 2018, that means that 2 earlier publications in that journal should not be considered as referenced. So the total amount for this indicator would be 140 points, which is still high enough.

In Group F the total amount of points is 405 for required 100. In F13 Monika Bogdanova has the degree “Doctor of educational sciences”, which gives 40 points. In F14 indicator she presents 80 points for 2 successful PhD students. After the deposition of her documents an additional PhD student has acquired his degree so the real amount of points could be considered as 120. It can be said that Monika Bogdanova has started her own scientific school of thought, as all her PhD students develop their scientific works through the prism of psychoanalytical paradigm and continue to use it in their practice.

In F15 indicator Monika Bogdanova has presented 4 participations in national scientific or educational projects with total amount of 60 points. In F16 she states 2 participations in international projects with total of 40 points. In F17 the candidate shows 4 leaderships of national scientific or educational projects with 120 points. A total of 25 points are given for a leadership of 1 international project.

In F19 indicator there is a total amount of 25 points. We can clearly say that the scientific work of Monika Bogdanova implements her practical experience and a huge part of her theoretical ideas in them are approved and continue to be used in practice.

The total publication work of the candidate for the current procedure is of high quality. It includes a total of 122 publications, 37 of which are part of her procedure for becoming an associated professor, 34 are part of the procedure for “Doctor of educational sciences” in 2015, and 41 are part of the current competition for professor. These include: 2 monographs, one of them as a co-author; 3 textbooks for university and school; 4 big articles 2 of them as co-author; 4 articles in scientific

journals, 2 of which are in referenced and indexed in international databases with scientific information; 23 articles and reports in compilations, collective works with scientific references. Beside them Monika Bogdanova is also author of 5 prefaces of books, related to her scientific interests, as the book of F. Dolto “In the game of Want. Part 1 (Clinical essays), 2017.

Presented in the procedure publications clearly develop and upgrade the previous ones. In the field of **professional orientation and consultation** can be included publications, related to the common theory of professional orientation and consultation, stated in the publication lists with numbers 4, 7, 8 and 26. Publications with numbers 24 and 27 broaden the scientific field by including children and adolescents with “specific needs”, while continuing to present and defend the term itself. In publications 38, 40 and 41 Monika Bogdanova develops and presents a system for professional and career consultation in the work of different types of specialists in multidisciplinary teams, which is an approach currently being implemented in Bulgaria. These publications contain different types of questionnaires and tools for professional orientation and consultation. In publications 10, 36, and 39 Monika Bogdanova analyses the modern psychoanalysis for the structuring of working practice models, which she approbated as part of her own work.

In the field of **consultation in social work with children and families** can be included publications 22 and 29, which focus on conceptualization of social work through the lenses of psychoanalytic paradigm. In publications , 10, 21, 23, 28, 32, 37 Monika Bogdanova tries to outline the need for a multidisciplinary work of different specialists in the field of early development of children. In them she describes the specific scientific field of social work with babies, paying special attention to the importance and characteristics of mother-baby relationship, along with baby-privileged person relationship and defines the specific of consultation and social work with babies and their close family environment. Publications 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 18, 20, 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 are focused upon the specifics and challenges of modern social work with babies and their close relations through psychoanalytical paradigm and they also present models from practical work. In publication 16 and 19 Monika Bogdanova states a relation between early child development and next periods of human life. In Publications 11,17, and 33 she outlines the importance of accompanying the premature born babies and early finding of children with risk of autism.

Scientific contributions of the candidate for professor

I accept the basic contributions outlined by the candidate in her Author resume. I would like to also state that in the most of her work Monika Bogdanova builds her author thesis upon psychoanalytical paradigm, seeking for connections between different scientific fields and revealing their importance for the modern social work, including for the professional orientation and consultation. The vast publication activity of the candidate includes different types of publications, but they are all directly or indirectly oriented toward the scientific field of the current procedure. The monographs presented in the competition reveal the long-lasting interests of Monika Bogdanova in consultation and social work with children through the prism of psychoanalysis. With her publications she establishes modern and not very familiar in our lines of work scientific fields, closely related to social work with children and families.

Motes and recommendations

After I thoroughly reviewed the presented publications of assoc. prof. Monika Bogdanova I can't state any weaknesses that should be mentioned here and that should be discussed. Every author has its own right to choose his/hers scientific paradigm for his/hers work and the freedom to defend their own scientific positions.

Conclusion

Facts, stated above, about the scientific and teaching work of Monika Bogdanova provide me with enough grounds to accept that she fulfills all the requirements for becoming professor in professional subfield 3.4. Social work, which requirements are stated in the relevant norms and laws.

Considering the above, in the present statement I surely give my positive evaluation for the candidate and would recommend to the panel of jurors to propose to the Faculty of education and its Faculty council to choose assoc. prof. Monika Bogdanova for a professor in professional subfield 3.4. Social work (Consultation and professional orientation in social work with children and families).

Sofia, 14 November 2021

Author of the statement:

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