

## REVIEW

**From** associated professor Zlatka Mihova, PhD, NBU, Department of Public Health and Social Work, Scientific field 3.4. Social activities (family counselling)

**Re:** Written materials submitted by assoc. prof. Monika Borisova Bogdanova, PhD, DSci, in the competition for the academic position “Professor” in scientific field 3.4. Social activities (Counselling and professional orientation in social work with children and families) issued in SG no.54/29.06.2021

### **1. Evaluation of the compliance to the minimal national requirements for the academic position “professor” in the field of social sciences**

The materials submitted by assoc. prof. Bogdanova fully meet the criteria in groups A, B, and C; her publications far exceed the requirements of criteria in group D; citations meet the requirement; and her participation in national and international projects, as well as publication of manuals also exceeds the minimal national requirement.

### **2. Research activity and publications**

- 2.1. Evaluation of the book presented as a habilitation paper – Bogdanova M. (2017) *The Infant, the Child and their Language*. Sofia: Avanguard Prima. ISBN 978-619-160-909-3, COBISS.BG-ID – 1284808676

Assoc.prof. Bogdanova presents a serious and deep analysis of a vast range of publications in the area of early child development. The analysis is focused on the relationship between emotions, body, language and subjectivity, and its disorders in children with specific needs, as well as on the connection between this development and the relationship baby – parents. The analysis is illustrated with numerous examples from the clinical practice of Ms. Bogdanova which support well her main theses. The focus on the autistic spectrum disorders and psychotic functioning in childhood is especially valuable for the pedagogy with reference to the national requirement for integrated education of children with specific educational needs. My opinion is that the processing of such an amount of new scientific information on one book is a serious contribution which is expanded even more by examples of the feasibility of the key ideas in the clinical and educational practice. This monography is a convincing proof of the necessity for all professionals in the area of early child development – doctors, midwives, nurses, teachers, psychologists and psychotherapists to study the psychodynamic understanding of infant and child development.

- 2.2. Evaluation of the contributions of the rest of the submitted publications

Assoc.prof. Bogdanova presents an impressive list of publications – books, papers and chapters which cover a wide range of research activity. They may be divided into two main areas:

- Counselling in the social work with children and families. The major contributions in this area are due to the development of a new for Bulgaria research and practice field – social work with babies which is conceptualized through the psychoanalytic paradigm. The development of models for accompanying and work with premature infants and children with specific needs is another contribution to the development of clinical practice.
- Professional orientation and counselling. In this area the papers demonstrate both a theoretical and practical contributions. The theoretical concern issues in the theory of professional counselling especially in academic settings, and the practical ones comprise the development of questionnaires and instruments for professional orientation and career counselling, as well as manuals and guidelines.

A specific contribution in both areas is the development of the multisensory principle as a therapeutic and counselling approach. Ms. Bogdanova is very consistent and coherent in the promotion of the psychoanalytic paradigm as a scientific basis for the clinical social work and the multidisciplinary approach.

### **3. Citations**

According to the presented information Ms. Bogdanova's publications have been cited 10 times in editions referred and indexed in internationally acknowledged data bases of scientific information. The citations in peer reviewed books and journals are 35. This amount covers the national requirements and presents a good indicator for the significance of the candidate's publications, having in mind the fact that the citations are in local publications in the context of novelty of the social work as a scientific field in Bulgaria.

### **4. Project activities**

Assoc.prof. Bogdanova has participated in 11 national and international projects, managing 5 of them. These are in the area of professional orientation and career counselling, and in the area of early child development. Hence, the project activities are fully consistent with the field of the competition. The projects are of applied nature and many of them aim at the development of training programs which contribute to the establishment of assoc.prof. Bogdanova as an experienced teacher and researcher.

### **5. Teaching activities**

Assoc.prof. Bogdanova has been a scientific tutor for two PhD dissertations in the area of counselling in social work with children and families, and one in the area of professional orientation of adolescents with antisocial behavior. She has published as a co-author three manuals in the area of professional orientation and career counselling.

The information for the compliance to the criteria established by Sofia University for the academic staff demonstrates an impressive picture of the teaching activities of Ms. Bogdanova. She is dedicated to work with students. The activity of Ms. Bogdanova as a manager of the Career Center of the faculty of Pedagogy is very important. She contributes to the development of innovative teaching methods as a founder and leader of the therapeutic center “The Green Court” where professionals in the area of early child development receive training and supervision while the students benefit from a quality placement for clinical practice.

#### **6. Community activities**

Assoc.prof. Bogdanova is a member of the Bulgarian Association for the Training of Social Workers and of the Bulgarian Association for Psychotherapy. Since 2021 she is President of the latter. She is doing a lot of voluntary editing work for the two organisations.

#### **Conclusion**

Associated professor Monika Bogdanova has presented materials which confirm her excellent capacity for research work. She has performed an impressive amount of publishing, contributing to the development and establishment of new fields for the social work with children and families, and for the professional orientation and career counselling through a consistent paradigm. She demonstrates a rich teaching experience and ability to integrate her research work in practice. She is engaged with the development and management of innovative practices such as the Career Center of the FP, and the therapeutic-training center “The Green Court”. The presented information for the competition prove in a convincing way that she meets all the requirement for the academic position “Professor” as described in the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff.

Drawing from all said above, I suggest to the honorable scientific panel to approve the choice of assoc.prof. Monika Bogdanova for the academic position “Professor” in the scientific field 3.4. Social Activities (Counselling and professional orientation in social work with children and families) in the FP of SU.

14.11.2021

Sofia

Endorsed by:

(assoc.prof. Zlatka Mihova, PhD)