

REVIEW

for the works of **Associate Professor PHD MAYA LYUBENOVA
CHOLAKOVA**

participant in a competition for "Associate professor" in a professional direction
1.2.PEDAGOGY / SOCIAL PEDAGOGY /, field of higher education 1.
PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES,

published in the State Gazette No. 21 / 15.03.2022, announced for the needs of
the Faculty of Science, Education and Arts of Sofia University "St. Kliment
Ohridski"

Prepared by the review: Prof. PHD. Todor Dimitrov Minev - University of
Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"

1. Information about the competition.

The competition was announced by order of the Rector RD-38-217 / 03.05.2022. of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the needs of the Faculty of Science, Education and Arts, and in the provision of the reference for the hours of the department are indicated disciplines, providing the needs of the faculty in the specified professional field. In preparing the review of the competition, the main documents complying with the requirements of the regulatory framework for the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" are taken into account. There are no violations in the competition procedure. One candidate participates in the competition - Assoc. Prof. PHD. Maya Lyubanova Cholakova, lecturer at SWU "Neofit Rilski".

2. Information about the candidate.

Candidate for Associate Professor Assoc. Prof. PHD. Maya Cholakova has a Master's degree in Special Education, specializing in Pedagogy for Children with Mental Retardation at SWU "N. Rilski" since 1988. Since 2004 is a doctor of Pedagogy / SNA in pedagogy at the Higher Attestation Commission /№29165/28.06.2004//. Since September 1, 2009 and currently he is an associate professor of Pedagogy at the same university /Social work ethno-cultural communities/ - Minutes № 5 of March 26, 2009. Her previous professional commitments are as an educator at Otets Paisiy University of Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad; Inspector for International Agreements and Programs, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", FNPP; in the Council of Ministers - Director of the Ethnic and Demographic Issues Directorate until 2009 Consistency and coherence can be seen in her work route. He is a member of several prestigious professional organizations - the Board of the Bulgarian Association for Education in Social Work; Academic Council for Refugees at UNHCR - Bulgaria; Board of the NGO "Family Zone". She has pointed out many specializations abroad and teaching at Sofia University and NBU. In her creative biography she pointed out different proficiency in two foreign languages at a very high level.

3. Description and evaluation of scientific papers.

Assoc. Prof. PHD Maya Cholakova in the competition for associate professor presents a list of scientific papers from almost all genres, including a monograph, which is a habilitation thesis, a monograph on a defended dissertation, an article in Scopus, 2 - in Web of science, as one has co-authored 12 studies, articles and reports. The additional list of publications that have not been submitted for review testifies to a rich publishing activity, mainly with a social focus. Although the awarding of the scientific title "Associate Professor" does not require the inclusion of participations and project leaders, it should be noted that Assoc. Prof. PHD Maya Cholakova has leaders in scientific and social projects and two defended PhD students. Now she is leading three PhD students.

Habilitation work Cultural humility. Sofia: UI "St. Kliment Ohridski ", ISBN 978-954-07-5430-7, can be defined not only as relevant, socially significant, but also innovative. However, the question of humility in the helping professions has been raised for only two decades, and for Bulgaria this problem is little known. Although humility has a biblical origin, it is not the subject of study in social welfare professions. In this sense, the work is valuable because it interprets issues that are yet to enter the practical support activities.

The introduction of the monograph is polemical - it is a kind of discussion with readers as the short historical aspect is presented problematically, not overview. This relatively new concept of ethical cross-cultural practice, which originated in the United States and is already borrowed from helping professions, is not expected to be fully adopted in our country, but its components may have a formative effect on professional and personal competence of social educators, workers, psychologists, doctors.

The book is composed in three chapters. The first seeks the dimensions of humility in the context of religious, psychological and philosophical scientific concepts. The candidate's knowledge of the spiritual pursuits of various religious concepts is impressive, and the author is not limited to the personal touch of God, but to the collective union with him and the transformation of humility into moral virtue. From the standpoint of philosophical analysis, the emphasis is on the two extreme positions - its complete negation to its removal into a basic virtue. The moral, epistemological and existential dimensions are sought, and here I would like to emphasize that the author of the monograph shows enviable knowledge and developed skills for text analysis. Psychological concepts bring humility to a positive personality trait, basis and prerequisite for a mature person.

The second chapter is focused on cultural competence in training and practical implementation in the field of social work, and here the valuable is the orientation to work in a multiethnic environment. It is emphasized that the helper cannot be a good therapist if he is not multicultural, if he does not have the knowledge and skills to work with different ethnic groups, basing his work on strategies that are consistent with diversity. In this chapter we come across the attitude of the author of the book to reality - social commitment, professional

competence, positive attitude and understanding of the client, trust in the spirit of humanistic traditions. Cultural humility is considered, on the one hand, as a field of applied activity - education, social work, social pedagogy, on the other hand - as a necessary component of the professional profile of every helper, perceived on a cognitive, emotional and behavioral level.

The third chapter, "Applying Cultural Humility", is illustrative of the specifics of helping professions. The conditions, factors and cases in which cultural humility becomes an integral part of the specific work, be it in the educational or social spheres, are sought. This chapter presents the results of an empirical study within a research project funded by the Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange Fulbright in the period January - April 2019 at the School of Social Work at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, USA and results of content analysis of the available educational documentation in the bachelor's and master's programs in Social Pedagogy and Social Activities in all Bulgarian universities where such specialties have been created. Well-structured and well-executed research, which can serve as a basis for future ones, on the one hand, a change in the curricula of universities that train professionals in helping professions, on the other hand and which provides guidelines for the practical work of current professionals in the social sector, from the third.

The conclusion contains essay components, but is also a kind of guide for change in the field of social activities and education and the introduction of cultural humility as an integral part, virtue, direction to work with clients from different ethnic groups.

The other monograph Potential for learning in children from minority communities. (2004). Sofia: UI "St. Kl. Ohridski ", ISBN 954-07-1941-0, was published on the basis of the author's dissertation on " Socio-pedagogical dimensions of the learning potential of children from ethnic minority communities ", defended at the Scientific Council on Pedagogy at the Higher Attestation Commission in 2003. Its subject is the potential for learning of children from ethnic minority communities, educated in special schools for children with intellectual disabilities. It is structured in four logically related chapters, the first of which deals with the problem of contradictions in the requirements of the traditional education system for children from ethnic minorities and non-compliance with their specific social environment. These contradictions put them in the position of children with intellectual disabilities and separate them from general education schools.

The second chapter is critical of the notion that since a child cannot meet the requirements of the traditional education system, he or she is a child with cognitive deficits, with a disability that does not allow him or her an equal start in learning, without taking into account factors and the conditions caused by disregard for ethnic, ethnocultural, linguistic and religious specifics.

The third chapter presents different options for diagnosing children from different minority groups, which are not only conceptualized around intelligence tests, but are procedures that affect the interaction of various factors, such as the environmental approach.

The fourth chapter is a well-planned and well-executed socio-pedagogical study of the learning potential of children from ethnic minorities aged 6-8. Based on rich empirical material, adequately selected tools and a sufficiently comprehensive sample, the environmental paradigm is it would best meet the educational needs of children of Roma and Turkish origin, not only as a diagnosis, but also as an opportunity to develop their learning potential.

The article "Interpretations of humility in a pedagogical context". 2022 Pedagogy, 94 (3), 306-317), <https://doi.org/10.53656/ped2022-3.02>, ref. Web of Science: Emerging Sources Citation Index; EPIX +; eLibrary.ru; CEEOL; EbscoHost; Google Scholar; Ex Libris; ProQuest is accepted as a complement to habilitation work with an emphasis on the role of humility as a virtue, a moral corrective to people, tentatively called "Western" and its inclusion as an integral part of interactions in the school environment. A slightly different aspect of humility is found in publication 7 - "Cultural humility in social work". / 2021 / In Proceedings of the Jubilee Scientific Conference of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University, "St. Kliment Ohridski "(in press), where the thesis is defended that not only the interactions in social work should be marked by social humility, but also regular human relationships. In publication № 12 "Beyond Cultural Competence: The American Concept of Cultural Humility in Helping." Clinical and Counseling Psychology, 1 (35), 15-26 again the emphasis is on the relationship "cultural humility - helping professions". Publication № 9 links cultural humility to professional competence, social inclusion and tackling socio-cultural challenges.

Another area in which the candidate addresses in his publications I would call "social work with families". These include publications № 8 and № 10, which cover different aspects of direct social work - working with parents and children to maintain the relationship between them, empowerment in social practice in small towns. The problem of empowerment is also the subject of interpretation in publications № 13 and 14, looking for its dimensions in ethnic minority communities and in individual social work as a serious problem in the "helping-client" relationship.

Other problems that are relevant to the announced competition and that are related to the work of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maya Cholakova are: problems of distance learning /№7/, as well as more private, such as social support for people with disabilities community services / №11 / and the concept of integrative care with clients at risk / №15 /.

Summary: The papers presented for review by Assoc. Prof. P Maya Cholakova present her in an innovative, positive direction, as a mature scientist, with a strong commitment, competence and depth, with a perspective for

development and ambition to prove herself, to discover news for others and leave your mark in science.

4. Scientometric indicators.

Assoc. Prof. PhD Maya Cholakova is registered with NACID in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, in the competition for associate professor at Sofia University, fully meets the minimum requirements as follows:

- Defensive dissertation, recognized in NACID - 50 points;
- One monograph - habilitation thesis - 100 points;
- Published book based on protective work - 75 vols.
- Articles, studies, reports, incl. and in refereed and indexed editions - 170 vols. - Citation - 90t. ;
- 120 points from the management of a doctoral student, participation in international and national scientific forums and projects.

Total - 515 on criteria A, C, D, E and E.

5. Scientific contributions.

I accept the submitted contributions of the candidate and comment on them as follows:

1. Popular theories and not so popular ones related to humility, presented from the standpoint of social sciences, humanities and pedagogy, have been reconsidered and presented in a new way, as well as components of the concept of cultural humility in our country in the field of helping professions.

2. The idea of the parameters of empowerment as a process in the field of social activities and social pedagogy, with specified characteristics, has been studied, explained and further developed.

3. Diagnostic and interpretatively generalized aspects of the conceptual framework of the value and ethical parameters in the social and socio-pedagogical work are indicated.

4. The possibilities and the grounds for application of the integrative approach in social work in providing social services to people at risk have been studied.

5. The necessity and applicability of a methodology for measuring the potential of children from ethnic minorities aged 6-8 has been proven theoretically and practically.

6. On the basis of generalized theoretical and empirical experience, constructive guidelines have been made to improve social work with people at risk through the prism of introducing the idea of cultural humility in the education of students from helping professions.

7. In all works the commitment of Assoc. Prof. PhD. Maya Cholakova to the social problems studied by her is evident, and her motivation for analyzing the chosen phenomenon, fact, event, supported by psychological, philosophical,

sociological and pedagogical, is clearly defined. theories presented in a new original way.

6. Teaching work. The teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maya Cholakova is focused in the field of social pedagogy, social work and ethnopedagogy, giving lectures on Social pedagogy; Social work with ethnocultural communities; Social work with children; Pedagogy and habilitation for children with disabilities; Anti-oppressive social work; Social work with refugees and migrants in bachelor's degree, lecture courses in master's programs - Methodology and methods of research in social work; Social integration of ethnocultural communities; Mediation in conflict resolution, as well as a lecture course in the doctoral program "Organization and management of social activities" - Methodology and methodology of research in social activities. The security of the competition fully corresponds to the professional experience and qualification of Assoc. Prof. PhD. Cholakova, as they are mainly in the field of social pedagogy and social work. This can be seen from the information provided on the workload of the competition for associate professor.

The numerous citations of the candidate make it recognizable for the scientific community, and the teaching at Sofia University and NBU unequivocally testifies to its popularity. Her participations in over 30 international and national projects present her as an expert on social policy and social practices in the country and abroad and almost as many participations in international and national scientific forums.

7. Notes and recommendations.

My acquaintance with the overall scientific and academic activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maya Cholakova, allow me to make the following recommendations - further development of her ideas with social orientation and providing her disciplines with aids, tools, textbooks, which is also preparation for her subsequent growth as a scientist.

8. Conclusion.

Expressing my impressions and analyzes of the overall scientific, expert, teaching and applied achievements of the candidate, assessing the relevance, significance of his work, I give my positive vote for Assoc. Prof. PhD. Maya Lyubenova Cholakova and recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council to award him the scientific title "Associate Professor" in a professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (SOCIAL PEDAGOGY), field of higher education, 1. Pedagogical sciences.

June 12, 2022

/...../

Veliko Tarnovo

Minev /

Signature:

/Prof. PhD. Todor