

REVIEW

Prof. Dr. Neli Boyadzhieva, SU "St. Kl. Ohridski"

on the works of Ch. Assistant Dr. Alexander Ivanov Ranev

who participates in a competition announced in SG No. 24/17 May 2023

**For the academic position "Associate professor" at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" -
Faculty of educational studies and the arts**

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction: 1.2.
Pedagogy /Theory of Education/

Biographical data and academic development

The competition was announced in SG No. May 24/17, 2023. The submitted documents correspond to the necessary minimum requirements and procedures of ZRASRB.

Ch. Assistant Professor Alexander Ranev, Ph.D., is the the one candidate in the competition. He was born on September 13, 1973 in Sofia. All degrees of higher education are realized in the Faculty of Education of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - educational qualification degree "Bachelor" in the specialty "Pedagogy", 2002, educational qualification degree "Master" in the specialty "Educational Management", 2004. From 2005 to 2008, he was a full-time Ph. D student, and in 2010 defended his dissertation work and acquires a Ph. D in Pedagogy. Topic - "The teacher as a class manager", research supervisor Assoc. Prof. PhD Silvia Nikolaeva.

The candidate's work experience includes: housekeeper at the Metropolitan Library/2001-2004/, teacher at the SSU for children with hearing impairment/2004-2006/, part-time teacher of pedagogy at the SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" - RP /2008-2010/, project manager at the "Partners-Bulgaria" Foundation/2009-2010/, psychologist in the Protected Housing TOGETHER /2001-2021/, Senior Assistant Professor at SU /since 2011/. In 2011, another successful competition for assistant professor in pedagogy will be announced at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" - FNPP, Department of "Social Pedagogy and Social Work". By order of the rector, he was reappointed as the chief assistant. He has 22 years of work experience - 17 years at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" /5 years of FP as a full-time doctoral student and 12 years in FNPP/ FNOI as chief assistant/. Pedagogical experience in the specialty 22 years. - two years as a teacher in SSU and 20 years as a psychologist in a sheltered housing.

The teaching activity of Ch. assistant professor Dr. Alexander Ranev is entirely focused on the problems of Education and Social Pedagogy. He conducts basic and optional lecture courses for bachelors and masters from various pedagogical specialties in the Faculty of Education and Faculty of the University of St. Kl. Ohridski". He spent his entire educational and academic career as a university lecturer at his Alma Mater, but at the same time he also works in the field of social practice, managing social projects in NGOs and providing immediate social support to children and youth at risk. Thus, he personifies a

profile of a university teacher with direct experience in socio-pedagogical work in the field, in the field of which he makes his scientific observations and research.

He realized himself as a sought-after and highly valued teacher by the students. He is responsible for the organization of practical training and pre-diploma internship at educational qualification degree "Bachelor" in the specialty "Social Pedagogy" at Faculty of educational studies and the arts. Participates in the preparation of documents for accreditation of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor". He was a participant in thematic projects under the "Scientific Research" Fund of the SU, and he was also the head of one in Faculty of educational studies and the arts /2021/. In addition to the assigned courses in pedagogy, he also develops specialized courses as a teacher - "Class Management", "Mediation and dispute resolution", "Positive approaches and physical intervention when working with children"/jointly with Ch. Assistant Dr. Tsv. Nikolov/ and others. There are additional qualification diplomas in mediation and online training at SU.

Assessment of quantity, genre grouping and subject matter of scientific production

The main scientific production is entirely in the professional direction and fully corresponds to the scientific specialty for which the competition Pedagogy/educational theory/ has been announced. The list covers only publications after the defense of the dissertation - a total of 14, made in a period of ten years 2013-2022. In terms of genre and subject, they meet the minimum requirements for candidacy for the academic position "Associate Professor". The publications are distributed by genre as follows: 2 independent books of monographic type, which are peer-reviewed /one is presented as a habilitation thesis/; five articles in scientific periodicals - in refereed journals, two of which are co-authored / "Professional education", "Pedagogy", "Learning strategies and educational policy"/; four articles and scientific reports were printed in non-refereed editions - scientific collections; three publications designated as studies in non-refereed editions with scientific review /2 items. at GSU "St. Cl. Ohridski" and 1 pc. in the magazine "Pedagogic novelties" of the RU "A. Kanchev"/; one published chapter of a co-authored collective monograph.

Two of the articles on the topic of the dissertation were published after the defense /2013 and 2014/. The publication in the Pedagogical News magazine does not meet the formal requirements for studies and should be accepted as an article. The following publications are subject to review: 2 independent monographs with scientific review; 1 chapter of a collective monograph in co-authorship; 3 articles in refereed journals /one in co-authorship/; 5 articles and reports in non-refereed publications, 2 independent studies. All publications are on the topic of the announced competition. The analysis of the topics in the list shows that there are repetitions in the titles and in the content of publications issued in different types of publications and therefore they are reduced. The following works for the competition are subject to independent review and assessment:

- Monograph-habilitation work: "Positive education and behavioral change", 2022, 215 p.

- Monographic edition: "Peter Danov on education", 2018, 162 p. - Articles: "Practices of non-formal education in social service" "supervised housing", Pedagogy, 2018, Anthology, 2018

- Articles: "Educational aspects in the social service "Supervised housing", Youth, scientific collection 2019 and studies at GSU "St. Cl. Ohridski", 2020

- Article: "Application of mediation in social services for adults", 2020 - Studies: "Application of mediation in working with children and youth", GSU, 2021

- Co-authored article: "Attitudes, expectations and interests among students for education and career development in the socio-pedagogical sphere", 2022

These publications reflect issues relevant to educational socio-pedagogical work, in which the author has priority as a practitioner and researcher.

Critical assessment of leading ideas and contributions in scientific production

The main monographic work, designated as habilitation, is on the topic "Positive education and behavioral change. Working with children with challenging behavior", UI "St. Cl. Ohridski", 2022, 215 p.

It presents in a comprehensive form the author's searches based on a deep inner personal orientation towards a humanistic paradigm for positive education. He applies a relevant scientific approach to the theoretical-applied type of research based on his rich pedagogical practice as an educator and psychologist with children with problematic behavior, which he studies in action. The result is a successful combination of theoretical analysis with empirical verification of results from practical social pedagogical work on a case with children with challenging behavior.

Positively oriented upbringing is the basis of the author's searches from the beginning of his academic and professional career. Some articles and scientific reports and a chapter of a collective monograph are devoted to this topic. Challenging behavior has always been an actual problem for the education methodology, and in the current stage of escalation of destructive forms, negative factors and difficulties in self-affirmation of children, proving the capabilities of the so-called positive parenting is a significant scientific problem.

The author expertly presents the theoretical-applied dimensions of the so-called positively oriented education. Initially, the essence of the phenomenon of challenging behavior and the basic principles of positive-oriented education are substantiated. On this basis, the casework framework and strategies and methods for dealing with challenging behavior are presented. The author describes his grouping of factors and their relationships with challenging behavior arising from physical, mental and spiritual substructures and from the environment. It also briefly presents the profile of the educator who works with children with challenging behavior. The last part describes the results of an empirical study of case work with a total of 39 children in Child Work Centers. Appendices as an integral part of the monograph are particularly valuable for the research methodology and evidence for the practical scientific research toolkit. This work contributes to placing one of the main spheres of social pedagogy on a scientific and proven basis and to the confirmation of the humanistic approach in case work in the methodology of educational work with children.

Preliminary stages of research on the topic of the monograph with different variants of positive approaches and emphases in working with children are presented in co-authored articles, in which the candidate is in the first place: Ranev A., Nikolov, Ts., (2017) Positive approach and physical intervention when working with children with challenging behavior.

Journal of Pedagogy. 4/2017 528-537; Ranev, A., Nikolov, Ts., (2014). Prevention and crisis intervention when working with children with behavioral difficulties. In Collective Monograph: Academic Fields of Social Pedagogy. UI "St. Kl. Ohridski". These articles show the beginning of the author's lasting interest in the application of the positive approach in working with children for prevention and crisis intervention in behavioral difficulties. The model for a positive approach and physical intervention proposed by the team for children with challenging behavior has been popularized in different types of training, in a specialized course for students and by demonstrations by educators and helping specialists who appreciate it highly and apply it in practice.

The second monographic edition is "Peter Danov on education", 2018, 162 p. This work by Dr. Al. Ranev reflects his deep interest and his desire to popularize and contribute to a modern scientific evaluation of the pedagogical messages and practices in the teachings of Petar Danov. In this edition, there is an attempt to critically present contemporary variants of application of the ideas and principles of "solar pedagogy" by followers and pedagogical reformers. He enthusiastically and convincingly presents arguments for a modern assessment of the Master's ideas to pedagogical specialists.

In his other publications after the monograph, the author introduces the readers to the main elements of Danov's teaching, presenting for the first time works with an educational focus of his close followers in the article Basic methods and principles in Petar Danov's pedagogy - history and modernity, 2020.

Dr. Ranev also describes the practical dimensions of informal learning and education in Solar Pedagogy and analyzes current aspects of the educational work and practices of informal education in the social service "Supervised Housing". This enriches the fields of application of social pedagogy. The article "Educational aspects in social service" Observed housing, 2019, has been cited twice.

The latest research interest is found in the field of application of mediation in social services - for adults /2020/ and when working with children and youth" /2021/. This topic is relatively new for the applied fields of social pedagogy, in which the author declares presence. He also has an additional qualification in this area and a self-contained course for students on the application of mediation in social services.

The most recent publication was made in connection with participation in a thematic project and was printed as a co-authored article: "Attitudes, expectations and interests among students for education and career development in the socio-pedagogical sphere", 2022.

Contributing moments in scientific production

The methodology of socio-pedagogical work with children is enriched with the study of current support strategies through a humanistic approach to positive education. Refinement of the toolkit and functional assessment in casework with a variant of indicators oriented towards children's resources and coping skills.

Systematization of the theoretical-practical dimensions of Petar Danov's educational and pedagogical ideas and describing their projection into today's pedagogical reality. Clarification of the content and practical dimensions of the ideas, comparison with recognized alternative models and presentation of the Bulgarian model.

Study of the specifics of educational and educational support in social services for adults. Introducing different perspectives on processes and activities in social services by looking at them through the prism of non-formal education to support the personal development of users.

Presentation and argumentation of the content dimensions of the educator's professional profile based on a study of typical support strategies, features of role interactions and basic approaches in educational work.

Enrichment of views in the methodology of educational work by considering the application of mediation in working with children and youth and as a pedagogical method in the system of social services for adults.

Citations noted

The citations reflect a necessary and sufficient presence of the publications in university publications in our country. They cover the requirements for necessary points in connection with the announced competition. They are 16 in number: 6 pcs. by indicator D 11. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information/com. "Pedagogy"/- 90 points; 9 pcs. according to indicator D 12: Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 90 points; 1 piece. according to indicator D 13: Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 5 points.

The citations in the author's reference are the most in the period 2020-2023 - 12 nos. Those previously discovered in the period 2011-2015 are on the author's abstract and the dissertation. The most frequently cited were four publications - a total of 10 times

1. Ranev, A. (2013). Content and practical dimensions of classroom management as a working (physical) environment. Professional education, XV,2,105-114- 4 times;
2. Ranev, A. (2008). Personal-professional profile of the teacher as a manager of innovation activities, magazine "Pedagogika", 4 - 2 times;
3. Ranev, A. The teacher as class manager. Abstract. SU.S., 2010 – 2 times;
4. Ranev, A. (2018). Educational and educational practices in social service "supervised housing", GSU-FNPP item 111, 185-207 - 2 times

No citations of the candidate's monographic publications have been noticed.

There are two cited by Dr. Ranev's co-author of their joint articles, which are of the auto-citation type.

Critical notes and recommendations

Recommendations for future research relate to broadening the scope and deepening the critical analysis in the studies. Regarding the representativeness of the publications, their quantity and genre diversity in the scientific production, one may wish to increase the activity in publishing university textbooks and/or aids and publications abroad.

It is good not to repeat titles and content in different types of publications.

Criticisms of the author's assessment of contributions are that they are too descriptive and do not highlight scientific achievements, but rather describe the problematic content areas in which the author believes there are scientific contributions.

Personal impressions

I have known Dr. Alexander Ranev since he joined the Department as an assistant in 2011. Even then, I was impressed by his qualities of consistency and steadfastness in pursuing his scientific interests, combined with practical experience, fueled by a deep personal commitment to the selection of research and pedagogical approaches. He was an assistant professor in the theory of education courses I taught in my undergraduate degree. I have followed with satisfaction the development of his pedagogical skills as a teacher, highly appreciated by the students as well. With the leadership of a thematic research project at FNOI in 2021, he also showed capacity as a research organizer in team field work. As a colleague and teacher, he shows correctness, accuracy and responsibility in his work.

The habilitation of Ch. Assistant Professor Alexander Ranev will help to strengthen the academic staff of the Department of "Social Pedagogy and Social Affairs" at the National Institute of Social Sciences with a proven researcher and teacher in the theory of education and the methodology of socio-pedagogical work. He has a way to develop, prove and realize as a supervisor of graduate and doctoral students, research projects for future larger-scale studies by expanding the scope of scientific issues.

Conclusion

Based on the overall quantitative and qualitative assessment of the scientific production and the main points of contribution, I propose Ch. Assistant Dr. Alexander Ivanov Ranev to be elected to the academic position of "associate professor" in the Department of Higher Education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.2. Pedagogy/Theory of education/

06/22/2023

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Neli Boyadzhieva