

STATEMENT

by Prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.

on procedure for election and appointment of associate professor in the professional field
3.2 Psychology (Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics),
Of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski, Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and
Legal Sciences and National Security, announced in State Gazette no. 96 of 11/19/2021 for the
needs of the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology of
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Statement prepared as required by: Order RD 38-574 / 13.12.2021 of the Rector of Sofia
University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

1. GENERAL

There is one application for the abovementioned position: Chief Assistant Prof. Nikolai Rumenov Rachev, PhD, from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Nikolai Rachev graduated Psychology at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" in 2001 with master degree. During the course of his studies, he had two specializations: Clinical and Counseling Psychology, and Work and Organizational Psychology. In 2008 N. Rachev successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on "Dimensions of musical experience" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" - professional field 3.2. Psychology (Cognitive Psychology) and was awarded a PhD degree.

During the period 2002 - 2006 N. Rachev worked as a clinical psychologist at the State Psychiatric Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski", Novi Iskar. From 2004 to 2006 he was a part-time assistant at the Department of General Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". After a successful competition in 2006, N. Rachev was appointed a regular assistant. He developed

his career gradually and steadily as a senior assistant and chief assistant in the professional field

3.2. Psychology (Cognitive Psychology), which is his current occupation. Many evidences are presented in the submitted information about the candidate's work experience – he has 16 years of experience in the specialty of Psychology in the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”. Chief Assistant Dr. Nikolay Rachev PhD, is a lecturer in a compulsory course on “Cognitive Psychology - Part One”, “Cognitive Psychology - Part Two”, “Psycholinguistics” for bachelor students in “Psychology” at Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”. In addition, he has led compulsory and elective courses in the master's degree programs in Psychology at Sofia University: MA in Child and Adolescent and School Psychology (diagnostics and counseling) (Development of projects for applied research in child and adolescent psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Art techniques in children and adolescents); MA of General Psychology in English (Theories of Learning, Ethics in Psychology and Rationality, Cognitive Psychology). Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Rachev is the module leader for the compulsory course “General and Age Psychology” in the specialty “Non-formal education” at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University. He also led seminars/exercises in the discipline “Psychology” for students of the bachelor's program in Tourism at the Faculty of Geology and Geography at Sofia University. All the courses presented and lectured by Dr. N. Rachev cover entirely the topic related to the call for applications for the advertised position of associate professor.

Additionally, Dr. Nikolay Raichev leads and supervises student empirical projects, he also serves as the scientific supervisor of dissertation projects in the bachelor's and master's degrees in "Psychology" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

2. HABILITATION PUBLICATION

For participation in the procedure Dr. N. Rachev has presented a habilitation book - monograph: “Rationality in a cultural context”. The work meets all the requirements for a monograph and completely matches the theme of the announced competition. Thus, this leads me to conclude that Chief. Assistant Professor N. Rachev fulfills all of requirements and conditions according to Sofia University’s rules and regulation for obtaining academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and in particular of Art. 105, item 3, according

to which candidates must “have submitted published monographs or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications in the field of the competition or show evidence of relevant artistic achievements in the field of arts, different from the ones presented for a doctoral degree”.

3. FULFILLMENT OF THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OCCUPATION OF THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.

Chief Assistant Professor Nikolai Rachev, PhD, has presented a reference list with relevant evidence. From the information given it is clear that Dr. N. Rachev fulfills the minimum national requirements in accordance with the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Protection of the People's Rights (amendment and supplement SG 15/19/2019, table 1, District 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, 3.2. Psychology). Specifically: for groups A, B and C, respectively, indicator 1, indicator 2 and indicator 3. He has the necessary 150 points, since he holds a doctorate degree (PhD), which equates to 50 points, and also presents a habilitation work that is ascribed another 100 points.

Group D (P4 to P10) of the ZRRARB Implementing Regulations requirements for an associate professor state the applicant must have at least 200 points. Based on the information provided by Dr. N. Rachev, his publications equal to 205.79 points. Also, according to the same Regulations, the candidate for Associate Professor should have 50 points from references. The references presented by Ch. Prof. Nikolai Rachev, PhD, show citations, including in SCOPUS, which are equal to 90 points.

Further, regarding indicator E - participation in research projects (management of a national research project, one participation in a national research project and one participation in an international research project) - 145 points have been awarded to N. Rachev .

4. PUBLICATIONS

Chief Assistant Professor N. Rachev has presented scientific papers on the topic of the competition: one independent monograph on the topic of the competition; 5 independent articles in Bulgarian peer-reviewed journals, one of which in English; 4 independent studies in a refereed

journal; 8 co-authored articles, 6 of which in English, in peer-reviewed journals part of the SCOPUS databases.

5. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Chief Assistant Professor Camellia Hancheva, PhD

Presented by Chief Assistant Professor Nikolai Rachev, PhD, scientific publications are entirely in the field of the procedure announced. The monograph “Rationality in a cultural context” focuses on the problems of intercultural variation of universal effects, as well as the mediating role of culture in the relationship between thinking and mental abilities. Dr. Rachev has introduced a research program exploring the role of culture in good thinking, it synthesizes theoretical approaches and research in the field of cognitive psychology. The presented publications deal with potential issues of different thinking styles in various cultures, the principles of learning and recollection, two-process theories of knowledge and more. I believe that the publications presented by Dr. N. Rachev fit entirely in the problematic of the announced competition and in particular reflect ideas related to concepts in the field of cognitive psychology.

I fully accept the contributions of Chief assistant professor N. Rachev, PhD, which can be supplemented and summarized as follows.

1. The submitted scientific papers characterize Dr. N. Rachev as a researcher with a strong interest not only in theoretical analyzes, empirical studies, but also in practical and applied aspects of the work.
2. A common feature of scientific publications is the interpretation of ideas and concepts in the three meta-levels of psychological knowledge: theory, method, and experiment in the sense of practical action.
3. Each of the publications is related to a well-established, significant object or principle in psychological science. The incorporation into the research of the theory-method-action relationship is an important feature of his methodological competences.
4. The publications correspond to both the development of contemporary scientific knowledge in psychology and the human practices of implicit theories and common sense.
5. The accumulated data and research in many studies reflects on and connect various fields of cognitive psychology.

6. TEACHING

Chief Assistant Professor Nikolai Rachev leads 3 compulsory courses, which he teaches at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” part of Bachelor's degrees. All of these lecture courses are in the field of the announced procedure. As a lecturer, Dr. N. Rachev is highly appreciated not only by his colleagues but also by the students, for whom the practical tasks included in his programs are particularly relevant.

No evidence of plagiarism has been observed in the candidate's work.

CONCLUSION

Chief Assistant Professor Nikolai Rumenov Rachev, PhD - meets all the requirements of the LPRA and the regulations for its implementation both in the country and at Sofia University. He has many years of experience and experience at Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”. He is also the author of part of the lecture courses that are the subject of this procedure. The overall work of Dr. N. Rachev offers a thorough, systematic and in-depth analysis of achievements in the field of cognitive psychology, refracted through the original interpretation of the author. He has extensive research experience gained from his involvement in numerous national and international research projects, some of them with the financial support of European Institutions.

As a result of the high appreciation of the scientific and teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Nikolai Rachev **I strongly support his application as a candidate for an “associate professor” in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.**

25/03/2022

Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Prof. Sonia Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.)