

# Appraisal

**From Georgi Iliev Petkov, PhD, associate professor at Institute of Human and Population Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Science**

**In connection with the competition for the academic position of associate professor in a professional field: 3.2. Psychology (Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics), announced at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**

I present this appraisal as a member of the Scientific Jury of the cited competition, on the basis of order № RD38-587/10.12.2021 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", in connection with decision № 6/7.12.2021 of the Faculty Council, on the grounds of Art. 7 of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", in accordance with the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Council of Ministers for its implementation. The competition was announced in SG 96/19.11.2021. Only the candidate Chief Assistant Professor Nikolai Rumenov Rachev has submitted documents for participation in it.

## **1. General description of the submitted materials**

As a member of the Scientific Jury of the competition I received the necessary documents of the candidate: application for participation in the competition, CV, diplomas for master's and doctoral degrees, lists of publications (general and submitted for the competition), author's reference for his works, reference for citations, articles for participation in the competition and other additional materials. According to the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Art. 24 (1), the Regulations for application of the Law, and the Regulations for the conditions and the order for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at Sofia University, the candidates for holding the academic position "associate professor" should meet the following requirements: 1. To have obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; 2. To have held the academic position of "assistant", "chief assistant" for at least two years; 3. To have presented a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific journals, which should not repeat those presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; 4. to meet the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5; (New, SG No. 30/2018, effective 04.05.2018); 5. To have not plagiarism in the scientific works, proven by the statutory order.

According to the submitted documents, Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev meets all these requirements: he holds the degree of Doctor since 2008, holds the academic position of Assistant since 2006 and Chief Assistant Professor since 2008 (over 15 years), and had presented 18 selected scientific publications. He has published a monograph "Rationality in a cultural context". All the requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at Sofia University have also been met. The submitted publications and the list of citations exceed the required minimum. I have not found plagiarism in his scientific works.

**Summarizing, Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev fulfills the legal requirements for holding the position of "Associate Professor".**

## **2. General characteristics of the teaching and research activities of the candidate**

From the point of view of his teaching activity, the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev has declared auditorium employment above the required for the last 3 years and impressive extracurricular employment. He has supervised successfully 4 students. He has introduced game innovations in his teaching activity. He has actively participated in practical classes outside Sofia University. He has participated in projects and publications together with students.

In connection with the research activity, the candidate has participated in 2 international and 5 national projects, being the leader of 2 of them. The candidate is a member of 3 authoritative scientific organizations.

**Summarizing, ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev has active and successful teaching and research activities.**

## **3. Analysis of the scientific and scientific-applied achievements of the candidate**

The total number of scientific publications of Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev is 21. 12 of them are self-authored and 9 are co-authored. 12 of the publications are in Bulgarian and the remaining 9 in English. 7 of the publications are indexed in Web of Science. The main scientific contributions of the candidate are in the field of research of heuristics and biases in human thinking, evaluation and decision making; intelligence and its connection with rationality; misbeliefs and irrational beliefs; intercultural and personality differences in thinking biases. He has participated in the development of empathy and systematization scales. Actively participates in research on up-to-date issues, incl. research related to the Covid pandemic.

The monograph "Rationality in a cultural context" is a combination of deep theoretical analysis and results of own research. In the theoretical part, an original combination of the works of Kahneman and Tversky and Keith Stanovich is made. An exhaustive list of typical human heuristics and biases, i.e. the systematic discrepancies between normative theories of evaluation and decision-making from empirical data on how do people this, is proposed. One-processor, two-processor and three-processor theories of the structure of the human cognitive system are discussed. The book continues with an analysis of intercultural differences of how do people evaluate and make decisions. The assumption that individual differences may explain some of the variance in the use of heuristics in thinking is discussed. In this part the book is written in a very fascinating way, which makes it a valuable reading both for psychology students and for all who are interested in human cognitive processes. In the second part of the book, in the context of the assumption of the influence of the cultural environment on the biases of thinking, a large part of the known research in the field is replicated among the Bulgarian population. In some of the experiments, original elements were added in order to test innovative hypotheses. Again, the well-readability of the text makes a good impression.

**Summarizing, Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev demonstrates active scientific activity in the field of cognitive psychology and successfully publishes his results in prestigious journals.**

#### **4. Reflection of the candidate's results in the works of other authors**

Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rachev had presented a certificate from the Department of Library and Information Services of the University Library at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The total number of observed citations in Web of Science Clarivate is 25 out of 7 indexed documents, with h-index 3 reported. The candidate has personally reported 9 citations, the total number of points according to the Regulations for application of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, is 95, which is almost twice the required minimum.

**The number of observed citations meets the requirements for holding the position of associate professor at Sofia University.**

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have the following recommendations to Nikolay Rachev: (1) To take even more scientific supervisions of students. (2) To develop more his own scientific hypotheses. (3) To increase his activity as a reviewer in journals and scientific conferences and to participate more actively in organizing scientific seminars and conferences.

#### **6. Conclusion**

**Based on all the above facts and in accordance with the requirements of the law and regulations, I give a positive assessment of the materials presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolai Rumenov Rachev. As the candidate has submitted all required documents, and they fully meet all the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and other regulations, as well as due to the high quality of the attached publications and their full compliance with the theme of this competition, I strongly recommend to the Jury and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy to elect Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolay Rumenov Rachev to the position of "Associate Professor" at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University in the professional field: 3.2. Psychology (Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics).**

23.03.2022 r.

/Associate Professor Georgi Petkov/