

REFERENCE

By **Camellia Doncheva Hancheva**, Associate Professor in 3.2. (Developmental Psychology), PhD in Psychology; Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "

for academic position "associate professor" in a professional field 3.2. Psychology, Department "Cognitive Science and Psychology", NBU, announced in SG no. 41/10.05.2024, with candidate Assisstent. Prof. Dr. **Nadia Hristova Kolcheva**

The review was prepared in accordance with order № 3-PK-270/28.06.2024, of the Rector of the NBU on the appointment of a scientific jury (SJ) and appointment of reviewers at the first meeting of the SJ.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

According to the presented summary tables and supporting evidentiary material, correctly reflecting the assignment of points, the candidate dr. Nadia Kolcheva meets the minimum requirements for the scientific and teaching activities for the occupation of the academic position "associate professor" in the professional direction 3.2 Psychology, according to the rules for application of the Law for the development of academic staff in R. Bulgaria, and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University. The candidate exceeds the minimum requirements for: 1) indicator in group – publications, with 155.66 points above the minimum 200; 2) indicator for citations – 195 instead of the minimum 50; 3) For the indicators for participation and leadership in national or international projects, the candidate even surpasses the requirements for "professor" with 130 points, with 100 required for a professor and 0 for an associate professor. The NBU's requirements, concerning the development of programs and participation in the university administration, students' assessment, and contribution to the visibility of the University institution, are covered and exceeded and will be further commented.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

1. Evaluation of the author's monographic work and scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

The monograph "Significant others in a person's life" provides an in-depth analysis of extensive literature on the topic, and presents results of empirical research conducted in Bulgaria. These results confirm a basic postulate of the personality partial theory (IPARTheory) that perceived interpersonal acceptance or rejection is significantly correlated with an individual's adaptive capacity, psychological well-being, or difficulties in functioning in both early and middle childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The monograph is a valuable addition to the existing scientific literature and demonstrates the importance of these relationships for resilience in the long-term basis, during the life-span. Dr. Kolcheva's scientific work represents a significant contribution to the field of human relationship research, with particular attention being paid to relationships with significant others in different age periods and social contexts. For over ten years, Dr. Kolcheva has conducted numerous studies focusing on the dynamics of relationships with parents, teachers, intimate partners, and supervisors in the workplace, within the context of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory). The created and/or adapted extensive toolkit, with very good psychometric properties, for the assessment of parental and teacher acceptance-rejection and behavioral control in childhood and adulthood, for the assessment of sensitivity to interpersonal rejection, for the assessment of acceptance-rejection and behavioral control in intimate partners is a good basis for future cross-cultural and longitudinal research in the field, and represents an indisputable contribution to the applied-diagnostic aspect of psychological knowledge.

2. Assessment of the contributions in the other attached publications made after the appointment of the academic position "assistant professor".

Assistant Professor Nadia Kolcheva highlights several subfields of her professional pursuits, publications and contributions. The first aspect, of lasting interest from Nadia Kolcheva's dissertation work to her habilitation, is related to parent-child relationships and their long-term consequences. Dr. Kolcheva's writings (including the necessary new publications after 2009) offer a thorough and comprehensive analysis of important topics in the field of psychosocial development and interpersonal relationships. A major focus of her research is on parenting styles and their impact on child development, including behavioral problems in early childhood, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse in early and late adolescence and adulthood. Her research in this area not only expands the empirical base of interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory

(IPARTheory) in the Bulgarian context, but also offers new methodological approaches for evaluating these relationships.

Dr. Kolcheva's research activities are diverse and include significant research on the career development and training of doctoral students and university professors in Europe. These studies provide valuable information on the working and training conditions of young scientists and academic staff in different European countries, offering useful guidelines for the future development of these processes.

In summary, Dr. Kolcheva's scientific work represents a significant contribution to the understanding of the complex relationships between parents and children, child development and career fulfillment in the context of European education. Her research is methodologically sound, innovative and has significant practical application.

Almost all publications are in refereed, peer-reviewed publications, collective monographs, some of them are part of prestigious databases (Scopus, Web of Science etc.). The publication of popular texts, often neglected in academic circles, is an important aspect of popularizing scientific achievements, and this effort should be duly appreciated.

3. Quoting from other authors.

The citations of co-authored publications as well as individual scientific texts of Nadia Kolcheva are numerous, both in foreign and Bulgarian publications and monographs, and represent the recognition and acceptance of the candidate's scientific contributions by the professional communities in the country and internationally.

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the obtained results in practice.

Dr. Kolcheva is the head for Bulgaria of the "Study of Bulgarian and Swedish adolescents" project, of the Research Center at the University of Lund, Sweden (2015 and 2019), as well as a participant in a number of national and international projects.

An important aspect of Dr. Kolcheva's work is the development, adaptation and standardization of tools to assess various aspects of development and functioning in childhood and adulthood. She develops and adapts scales and questionnaires that are widely used both in research

and in the practical work of people in the helping professions. A valuable contribution to applied psychology is the participation of Dr. Kolcheva in the development of the Screening tool for three-year-old children and Standards for development and learning in early childhood: from birth to three years (author of the Social Development and Social Development subtests. Self-knowledge). The candidate is also the author of the Bulgarian adaptation of the Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC). Of particular note is the development of the Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire in an Organizational Context (OARQ/C), which fills an important gap in the research literature and is a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners.

III. Learning and teaching activity

1. Auditory and non-auditory employment, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU", provision of student practices and internships, work with students and doctoral students.

The candidate met and exceeded the requirements for publishing learning materials on Moodle. Uploaded to "Moodle NBU" are author's materials for over 35 courses, in the following areas: psychology and developmental psychopathology, psychodiagnostics of children and adults, pedagogical psychology, diagnosis and work with children with SEN, etc. Many of the courses have been developed in Bulgarian and English for the purposes of the undergraduate psychology program in English and Erasmus students.

2. Work with Erasmus students.

As part of the BP Psychology in English team, Head Assistant Dr. Nadia Kolcheva is actively involved in the educational process of Erasmus students.

3. Evaluations from student surveys.

According to data from the self-evaluation table, the average evaluation from the student surveys for the last ten semesters for Dr. Kolcheva's teaching work is very good 4.32, which meets the requirements for a score above 4.00.

IV. Administrative and public activity

1. Participation in collective management bodies of the NBU.

Assistant professor Dr. Kolcheva participated in the development of the Bachelor's program "Psychology" (in English), constantly updates and creates new courses for the bachelor's and master's programs, participated in the organizing committee of the National Conference "Early Child Development: Science and Practice ", September 28-29, 2016, NBU. Since 2015, she has been the initiator of the "Profession Psychologist" seminar, dedicated to the professional realization of psychologists, which is popular among students.

2. Public activity.

Dr. Kolcheva's research on child development and the peculiarities of social and emotional development are of high scientific value and receive international recognition. The EU-Self platform, developed by a European team under her leadership, collects data on the social and emotional skills of children from 47 European countries, and is a significant contribution to the expansion of scientific knowledge in this area. The platform offers a wealth of information and tools that are useful for both researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the field of education and has the ambition to become a factor influencing social policies in Europe.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Nadia Kolcheva since her student years in Psychology at Sofia University and subsequently as a colleague working in the field of early childhood development through participation in various scientific forums and project initiatives. For the past 8 years, we have jointly taught a course in PSYE408 Psychodiagnostics: Adults, in MP Psychology in English, NBU. Nadia is a responsible and purposeful researcher and teacher, a fair and responsive colleague with an open and direct communication style.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

The applicant's achievements are undeniable, the contributions highlighted in self-evaluation are correctly derived, the wish is to continue with a tireless pursuit of the chosen research fields, and the recommendation is for a possible curiosity towards other psychological paradigms and alternative research and applied work models.

In conclusion, I positively assess all aspects of the candidate's academic activity ch. Assistant Professor Nadia Hristova Kolcheva, Ph.D., and I strongly suggest that the candidacy be admitted to the Academic Council.

August 24, 2024

/assoc prof PhD Camellia Hancheva/