

## **STATEMENT**

From: Prof. Dr. Maurice Grinberg, Research Center for Cognitive Science, New Bulgarian University

Regarding: Competition for the position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology, announced in the State Gazette issue 41/10.05.2024, with the sole candidate being Assistant Professor Dr. Nadya Kolcheva.

### **I. Evaluation of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University**

Assistant Professor Nadya Kolcheva meets and exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology. In some indicators, she significantly exceeds the minimum requirements, particularly in groups G, D, and E.

A key element in the submitted works is the monograph "Significant Others in Human Life."

Nadya Kolcheva has 2 articles in journals indexed in international databases and 23 articles and 3 studies in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals. Also presented are 5 chapters in monographs where she is an author or co-author. In the submitted self-assessment for the competition, 20 citations are reported.

It is also noteworthy that in most of the presented publications, she is the sole or first author.

### **II. Research (Creative) Activity and Results**

The research activity of Assistant Professor Dr. Nadya Kolcheva is focused on several applied-scientific topics. The main area of her research is interpersonal relationships in the context of the Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory). Dr. Kolcheva's work is based on a deep understanding of this theory and a rich empirical material collected through systematic studies. A comprehensive overview and her own research are presented in the monograph submitted for the competition.

The second focus of her research is parent-child relationships, which is covered in the presented monograph and other publications. A significant part of Dr. Kolcheva's scientific and applied contributions is the construction, translation, adaptation, and standardization of

numerous tests for assessment. Some of these have been applied to research in early childhood development.

One of Nadya Kolcheva's contributions is the development of original tools for assessing interpersonal relationships, such as the OARQ/C questionnaire, designed to study acceptance-rejection and control in an organizational context. This questionnaire is an innovative tool within the framework of IPARTheory and complements existing methods for studying interpersonal relationships, while also providing a solid foundation for future research in this area. Her studies on parental acceptance-rejection in different social contexts, including among Roma children, reveal important aspects of social interactions and their impact on mental health.

### **III. Teaching Activity**

Nadya Kolcheva's teaching activity covers numerous courses developed by her for various programs at NBU. Some of these courses are in the Bachelor's Program in Psychology in both Bulgarian and English, as well as the Master's Program in Developmental Psychology. The courses focus on both typical and atypical child development.

Some of the courses developed by Nadya Kolcheva are aimed at the Bachelor's and Master's programs in the Department of Foreign Languages at NBU, presenting the basics of pedagogical and educational psychology and developmental psychology. Other courses aimed at teacher training have been developed for the Department of New Bulgarian Studies.

Particularly impressive are the research projects involving students from the Bachelor's Program in Psychology and the Master's Program in Developmental Psychology. The result of this approach is the numerous bachelor's and master's theses that Nadya Kolcheva has supervised, and the publications co-authored with students.

An important activity in working with students is the provision of internships and practical opportunities, which are a mandatory part of the requirements for psychology programs. Nadya Kolcheva has secured numerous and diverse places for such internships.

The average student satisfaction rating for the courses she teaches is high—4.32, which is evidence of the quality of her teaching.

### **IV. Administrative and Public Activity**

Assistant Professor Dr. Kolcheva was the director of the Bachelor's Program in Psychology from 2009 to 2013. She is also the head of the test library at the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology.

She participated in the organizing committee of the national conference "Early Childhood Development: Science and Practice" (2016) and was the initiator and leader of the monthly seminar "Psychologist Profession."

#### **V. Personal Impressions of the Candidate (if any)**

I have known Nadya Kolcheva since her joining the New Bulgarian University as a staff member of NBU Assessment Center, which I was directing at the time. My impressions are decidedly positive. She is a researcher with clearly formulated scientific interests, which she systematically pursues.

#### **VI. Opinions, Recommendations, and Notes on the Candidate's Activities and Achievements**

I recommend Assistant Professor Dr. Nadya Kolcheva to continue her active participation in international research projects and conferences to expand the scope and impact of her research and to increase the number of her publications in international journals with an impact factor.

#### **VII. Conclusion**

Based on the materials presented for the competition and my personal impressions, I believe that Assistant Professor Nadya Kolcheva is an established researcher with a clearly defined thematic focus, in which she is a leader, with extensive scientific-applied, project, and teaching activities related to it.

Based on the presented scientific works, their significance, and the scientific and applied contributions contained within them, as well as everything mentioned above, I strongly propose that Assistant Professor Dr. Nadya Kolcheva be appointed to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology.

25.08.2024

Signature: