

STATEMENT

by Prof. Lilia Alexandrova Gurova, New Bulgarian University

on the scientific publications submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position "Professor" in Psychology, announced in DV No. 51 / 18.06.2021,

with candidate Associate Professor Maurice Avram Grinberg, PhD.

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

The candidate in this competition, Associate Professor Maurice Avram Grinberg, meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.2 Psychology, formulated in the Regulations for application of the *Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria* (ZRASRB), as well as the requirements of New Bulgarian University, formulated in the *Decree for the Development of the Academic Staff of NBU*. According to most indicators, the individual results of Assoc. Prof. Grinberg significantly exceed the minimum national requirements and the requirements of NBU.

II. Research activity and results

Assoc. Prof. Maurice Grinberg participates in the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.2 Psychology with a monograph (*Social Dilemmas: Cognitive Perspective*. Sofia: NBU Publishing House, 2020) and 68 other publications, of which 28 papers and 4 studies referenced in *SCOPUS/Web of Science*, 4 book chapters and 32 papers published in peer-reviewed journals which are not referenced in *SCOPUS/Web of Science*. All publications have a total of 61 citations in *SCOPUS/Web of Science*, the applicant has not provided information on citations in publications that are not referenced in *SCOPUS/Web of Science*.

In my statement I will focus mainly on the presented monograph and on a part of the publications with which Assoc. Prof. Grinberg participates in the competition, but to which he does not refer in the attached List of the contributions.

The monographic work presented by Assoc. Prof. Grinberg has 251 pages and contains a preface, 25 chapters, divided into 4 parts, an afterword, two appendices and a bibliography of 228 titles,

all in Latin. "Social dilemmas are situations in which immediate actions in one's own interest conflict with long-term collective interests" (Grinberg, 2020, p. 14). How do people make a decision when they face such situations? This is, in general, the main issue around which the content of the book "*Social Dilemmas*" is organized. After in Part I the author introduces the formal theory of games – the theoretical paradigm in which social dilemmas were initially studied, as well as the types of games designed to more accurately distinguish the various factors that influence the process of making solution in a situation of social dilemma, in the next part II he presents the basic models, taking into account the social preferences and interests of others. The latter explain how (part of) people facing social dilemma reach an altruistic solution that contradicts their short-term interests. The reported weaknesses of these models motivate the transition to the so-called cognitive models and to one of their variants – agent-based models with reinforced learning, to which parts III and IV of the book are dedicated, respectively. These two parts also contain the main contributions of the author. These are the CSRL and SARL models, which allow to describe how the decision of cooperation or of refusal to cooperate depends on the so-called "cooperation index" (dependence, which has been established in numerous experiments), and a multi-agent model demonstrating the emergence of sustainable cooperation in situations whose formal presentation is equivalent to the presentation of the conditions under which the effects of the so-called "Simpson's paradox" are observed. Along with these specific achievements of the author, I would point out as a significant contribution as well the systematization of the discussions on social dilemmas, which impresses with its scope and precision.

I would also like to draw attention to the series of 6 publications (under numbers 6.19, 6.20, 6.21, 6.22, 6.23 and 6.24 in the self-assessment presented by Assoc. Prof. Grinberg), to which he does not refer in his List of the main contributions. Although indeed the main hypotheses tested in the research described in these publications were not proposed by M. Grinberg, with his participation in these large-scale research projects, he, together with the other members of the Bulgarian team, contributes significantly to the establishment of cultural variations of many "intuitions" that have caused controversy among analytical philosophers for decades.

III. Teaching activities

Over the years, Assoc. Prof. Maurice Grinberg has taught various bachelor's and master's courses (in Bulgarian and English) in cognitive modeling, analytical skills, decision making and more. I especially want to emphasize the innovative nature of most of these courses, which are unique for Bulgaria. Assoc. Prof. Grinberg was the scientific supervisor of three successful doctoral

students (Evgenia Hristova, Alexander Gerganov and Gergana Kuzmova) and a total of 9 bachelor's and master's theses. Two of his doctoral students (E. Hristova and A. Gerganov) have a promising academic career. Assoc. Prof. Grinberg actively participated in the creation of the Bachelor Program for Outstanding Students at NBU, which during its existence (2005 - 2010) managed to prepare for a successful academic career some of the best students at the university (among which is e.g. Dr. Ivo Popivanov, who is now part of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology).

IV. Administrative and public activities

Since joining NBU in 2000, Assoc. Prof. Grinberg has held a number of administrative positions: Director of the Master Program in Cognitive Science (2000 – 2001); Director of the Bachelor Program for Outstanding Students at NBU (2005 – 2010), Vice-Rector for Quality, Evaluation and Certification (October, 2006 – 2010), Director of the NBU Assessment Center (2004 – 2010). He is currently the director of the Artificial Cognitive Systems Laboratory.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Maurice Grinberg for more than 20 years – from the time when at the end of the last century he came to NBU to enroll in the Master Program in Cognitive Science, although he already had a doctorate in physics, and soon after (in 1999) was elected Senior Research Fellow at INRNE - BAS. Maurice never completed the cognitive science program because, according to the unanimous assessment of the then teaching team in the program, he already had the necessary training, knowledge and skills to become part of this team. Thus, in 2000 Maurice Grinberg was first elected extraordinary Associate Professor at NBU, and since 2010 he has been a full Associate Professor at the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology. What I have always valued in Maurice is his extensive and in-depth knowledge in various fields of science (physics, cognitive sciences), impressive general knowledge, his interest in philosophy, his willingness to embark on something new, despite his successes in his previous field. Together with his undeniably high intelligence, these are qualities that are not common in our academic circles.

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

In the previous sections of the review I have already expressed my assessment of the candidate's achievements in research and other activities. I have no significant remarks on what he has

submitted for participation in this competition. My recommendation is that during the final meeting of the scientific jury, Assoc. Prof. Grinberg to present in more detail his research program in the part that concerns the so-called "experimental philosophy".

Conclusion: Assoc. Prof. Maurice Avram Grinberg meets (and significantly exceeds) the minimum national requirements and the requirements of NBU for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.2 Psychology. Based on this, as well as on the significant results he has achieved in research, I strongly recommend Assoc. Prof. Grinberg for election by the Academic Council of NBU.

Date: September 22, 2021.

Signature

/Prof. Dr. Lilia Gurova/