

OPINION

of Prof. Ph.D. Tanya Ivanova Borisova, member of the scientific jury, according to Order No. 3288/28.09.2023 of the Rector of Thrace University in a competition for applying for the academic position "Docent" in professional direction 3.2. Psychology, on the scientific specialty "Pedagogical and age psychology (Adlerian approach)", promulgated in SG no. 60/14/07/2023

One candidate participated in the announced competition - Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva, assistant professor. All submitted documents are in accordance with the requirements of the RASRB and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Thrace University. I did not find any plagiarism in the submitted publications.

Biographical data for the applicant:

I have known Assistant Professor Nedelina Zdravkova since she was a student. She successfully completed her studies in the Bachelor's program in Special Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy - University of Thrace. Later, he obtained a master's degree at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" majoring in "Psychology". Since 2008, he has been an assistant at the Faculty of Pedagogy of TrU. Works in direct connection with Prof. Ph.D. Zhaneta Stoykova and enjoys the respect of colleagues and students. In 2019, he defended the educational and scientific degree "doctor" at VTU in the scientific specialty "Pedagogical and Age Psychology". To this day, he leads lectures and seminars with students. He is a regular member of the Bulgarian Society for Individual Psychology "Alfred Adler" and of the Union of Scientists - Stara Zagora.

Scientific output:

For her habilitation thesis, Associate Professor Zdravkova presents a monograph "Lifestyle and social interest in preschool age", published in 2023. It is the result of an original study of the relationship between levels of social interest and lifestyle in preschool children age. The measurement of social interest was carried out through an author's questionnaire, which was filled out by teachers based on their personal observations of children's behavior. As a criterion - defining the lifestyle - the ethnic origin of two studied groups was applied. The results establish differences in the levels of social interest, which the author relates to the preparation and the attitude of different social groups and ethnic groups towards preschool education.

Another monograph, not presented as a major habilitation thesis, was published in 2023 with the title "Social responsibility and social interest - predictors of teachers' professional suitability". In the monograph, a detailed analysis of the psychological requirements for the teacher was carried out, clearly stating the need for a profession chart. After clarifying the constructs of 'social responsibility' and 'social interest', they are presented in the context of their interrelationship within the teaching profession. An empirical study was conducted with 50 teachers. Correlation analysis (Pearson's coefficient) was used to verify the relationship between the two variables. Thus, it was found that the strength of the relationship between the levels of

social responsibility and social interest depends on the age of the students with whom the teachers work.

A book, based on a defended dissertation work, was also published in 2023 with the title "Social interest and educational environment". In it, a detailed analysis of the social interest is made, which is postulated as determining the socialization of the person. An empirically established study of the levels of social interest in children observed in family and non-family environments was conducted. In this basis, a model for the development of social interest in preschool children observed outside the family is proposed.

Articles and studies:

Attached to the candidate's documents for this competition are seven articles and one study, all with one author - Assistant Professor Nedelina Koleva. The materials were published in non-refereed editions with scientific review in the period from 2004 to 2023. They correspond thematically and contain the professional direction and scientific specialty specified in the competition announcement. The articles do not repeat the materials used by Assistant Professor Nedelina Koleva to acquire the scientific and educational degree "doctor". Citations:

A list of the necessary evidentiary material for scholarly citation and impact on the candidate's work is attached. Noticed and referenced in a total of 9 citations. Of them, 2 are in articles published in scientific publications, referenced in SCOPUS and WOS. Another 5 are in articles in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. Two citations in monographs are also indicated.

Contributions:

Accepting the scientific contributions submitted by Assistant Professor Nedelina Koleva, I will highlight only some of them:

In a scientific aspect:

1. Scientific knowledge from individual psychology has been systematized, further developed and adapted, based on the Adlerian model, which has been understood, tested and interpreted in the context of social interest in different age groups;
2. Evidence was found for the need to understand the professional profile of the teacher, consistent with the differences of adolescents and their social environment.

In a practical-applied aspect:

1. In the three monographs, significant problems for pedagogical and age psychology related to the theory, methodology and practice in this field are developed - the professional profile of the teacher, the type of educational environment, the role of the ethno-cultural context for socialization;

2. New knowledge was obtained on the treated scientific problems based on the accumulated facts in numerous empirical studies.

3. The research toolkit of psychology has been enriched and further developed. A methodology for researching social interest has been approved for children raised in a non-family environment.

Conclusion:

I know Assistant Professor Nedelina Zdravkova as a teacher, colleague, and scientist. She is a researcher, scientist and person of authority in the scientific community. The subject of her publications corresponds to the subject of the announced contest. Her scientific and pedagogical activities satisfy the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Belarus and the Rules of its Application.

Giving my positive assessment of the candidate's educational and teaching activities, the scientific significance of the publications and the citations resulting from them, I confidently propose to the scientific jury and the FS of the PF to choose the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 3.2. Psychology, in the scientific specialty "Pedagogical and age psychology (Adlerian approach)", Assistant Professor Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva, PhD.

St. Zagora

05.12.2023

Prof. Tania Ivanova Borisova, PhD