

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Minko Stoev Hadzhiyski

For Senior Asst. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova

Participant in a competition for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Medical Psychology), field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, announced in Announced in the State Gazette, issue 85 of 8.10.2024, for the needs of the Medical University of Varna, Veliko Tarnovo Branch, Department of "Health Care".

1. Candidate details.

Senior Asst. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova was born on 03.12.1982, Plovdiv. In the period 2001 - 2005. she graduated with a bachelor's degree, majoring in "Psychology" at Sofia University, and in 2005. - 2007. Master, specialty "Clinical and Counseling Psychology". 2012 - 2016. is a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, specialty "Medical Psychology" at MU-Varna. , where he defended his dissertation on the topic "Influence of family relationships and parent-child relationships on anxiety expression in preschool children". He has qualifications as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist.

From 2005 -2009. is a pedagogical advisor-psychologist at the "Zahari Stoyanov" Primary School - Varna. 2010-2024- is a clinical psychologist at the St. Marina University Hospital - Varna.

2010 - 2017. - "assistant", specialty "Medical Psychology", Department of Health Care - Veliko Tarnovo branch of MU-Varna. From 2017 to 2024. is a "chief assistant", specialty "Medical Psychology, Department of Health Care - Veliko Tarnovo Branch of MU-Varna, leading classes in "Medical Psychology", "Developmental Psychology", "Child and Adolescent Psychology" and

"Cognitive Psychology". She has participated with publications in a total of 17 scientific forums, of which 4 abroad.

2. Competition data.

The competition for "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology /Medical Psychology/, field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, was announced in the State Gazette, issue 85 of 08.10.2024, for the needs of the Veliko Tarnovo Branch, Department of Health Care.

One candidate participated in the competition and all requirements under the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff have been met. As can be seen from the attached certificate, the same is provided with the necessary academic workload. No irregularities were found in the procedure.

3. Description of scientific works.

In the competition for associate professor, senior assistant, Dr. Veronika Ivanova participated with 1 monograph, 1 abstract of a dissertation for the National Academy of Sciences "Doctor of Sciences" and 29 publications in collections and periodicals, 13 publications in English and 16 in Bulgarian. In terms of volume and content to the topic of the announced competition, they fully correspond to the application for a professor of psychology.

As a habilitation work for review, the monograph "Family Psychodynamics and Adolescence. An Attempt to Understand the Teenager" is presented. It has a total volume of 198 pages, and the bibliography contains 133 sources. The monograph examines the specifics of family models and the changes that occur with them, through the eyes of teenagers, in norm and pathology, especially those behaviors and family influences that lead to problems. In addition to the theoretical aspects related to the study of adolescence and family relations, clinical cases from the author's practice are also examined and discussed. While I fully share the author's view of the contributions of the work, I would like to draw attention to several points that, in my opinion, successfully complement the idea of the role of the family and its psychodynamics for the psychosocial

development of teenagers. These are, first of all, the theoretical generalizations about the interrelationships between family relations and adolescent problems, as a basis for psychological counseling and psychotherapy. In a practical and applied plan of contribution, I find the author's scale for the study of family relations, the basis of the Beavers model, as well as the presented projective methodologies for the study of the personality of adolescents. Overall, the monograph is a useful work for academic and practical use by teachers and specialists dealing with this difficult topic. The book is also suitable for parents who experience difficulties with their problem children.

Senior Assistant Dr. Veronika Ivanova also participated in the competition with 25 publications, 12 in English and 13 in Bulgarian, published in scientific journals and collections. The same have been defined in 5 thematic areas.

The first thematic area is related to the problems, including the phenomenology, diagnostics and symptoms of anxiety, stress, psychotrauma in children and adults. Various aspects of anxiety in childhood have been examined, including physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioral aspects.

The second thematic area is represented by research related to children on the autism spectrum. Based on research, clinical observations and interviews with parents, significant features of children and parameters of a consultative model for working with parents have been derived.

The third thematic area is related to the psychodiagnosis of adolescents in a clinical setting. The possibilities of the short form of the MMPI questionnaire, as well as the projective TAT methodology in psychotic patients, have been derived.

The fourth area, according to the author, is in the field of psychotherapy and personality research. It is represented by 9 publications. The relationship between the personality of future physicians and the creation of a therapeutic relationship is studied. The interrelationships between the ability of the psychotherapist for authentic presence and the quality of psychotherapy are

studied. An analysis of the process of group psychotherapy in low-functioning groups of psychotic patients is made. An author's scale for assessing the effectiveness of group psychotherapy in psychotic patients is presented. The specifics of crisis counseling and psychotherapy in suicidal adolescents are studied. A model for group psychotherapy in inpatient settings is developed.

The fifth area is represented by two publications in the field of child clinical psychology and diagnostics. A review of modern clinical tests for screening and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is made. Based on the diagnostic interviews and consultation sessions with parents, the attitudes and behaviors of parents of children with developmental problems are examined.

In summary, the author's contributions can be defined in three areas:

- Conceptualization of theoretical models in the fields of medical and clinical psychology and their verification in practice;
- Validation of methodologies and diagnostic methods in child and adolescent medical psychology, clinical psychology and psychotherapy;
- Phenomenological examination of the symptomatology of mental disorders and disorders in childhood and adolescence.

5. Teaching work.

As can be seen from the submitted certificates, the candidate has 14 years of experience as a clinical psychologist, of which 13 are related to teaching as an assistant in the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology of the Medical University of Varna and as a senior assistant in the Department of Health Care of the Veliko Tarnovo Branch of the same university. My indirect information about the didactic skills, personal presence and quality of work are more than positive. In the overall professional performance, Veronika Ivanova shows consistency in her pursuit of academic development and affirmation.

6. Conclusion.

Considering the above-listed merits of the scientific production and the equality between the scientific research, clinical and teaching work of Senior Assistant Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova, I strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to award her the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 2.3. Psychology (Medical Psychology).

02/18/2025.

Veliko Tarnovo

Signature:

/Prof. Dr. M. Hadzhiyski/