

REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Hristo Kozhuharov, PhD

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Subject: Competition for the Occupation of the Academic Position Associate Professor in Higher Education field 7. Health and Sports; 7.1.Medicine; Specialty - Forensic Psychiatry, Medical University - Varna, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology and Psychiatric Clinic at UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna.

The competition has been announced in State Gazette No. 62 / 06.08.2019. I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury by an order of the Rector of MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna No 109 / 07.10.2019, and in accordance with minutes № 1 of the meeting of the Scientific Jury I was appointed to prepare a review.

Only one candidate has submitted documents within the legal deadline: Senior Assistant Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, PhD

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov, PhD was born on August 24, 1977 in Varna.

In 2005 he graduated medicine at the Medical University – Varna.

After graduation, he worked as a medical representative and regional manager at international pharmaceutical companies.

Since 2012 he is a trainee at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna, acquiring a specialty "Forensic Psychiatry" in 2016

Since 2013 he has been working at the First Psychiatric Clinic at the University Hospital "St. Marina."

In 2018 he obtained a PhD degree at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna. Thesis topic: Cross-cultural analysis of attitude towards suicide.

From 2016 she was appointed Assistant in Forensic Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna, and since 2018 he is a Senior Assistant in Forensic Psychiatry at the same department.

She is fluent in English and Russian.

He is the recipient of the 2017 JSPN Fellowship Award from the Japan Association for Psychiatry and Neurology.

He is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Scientific publications:

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov submitted a total of 32 scientific publications for review in this competition, distributed as follows:

- 1 monograph
- 1 book on the basis of a dissertation thesis
- 7 textbook chapters
- 23 full-text publications in collections and periodicals

16 of the full-text publications are in Bulgarian and 7 in English.

20 of the publications are presented in the Minimum State Requirements Reference and another 12 in the Supplementary Reference to publications that exceed the Minimum Requirements.

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov earned his PhD degree in 2018 after successfully defending a dissertation on "Cross-cultural analysis of attitudes towards suicide".

The author's monographic work, Forensic Psychiatric Expertise in Family Law, has a total volume of 200 pages, includes 2 reviews, and was published in 2019.

The submitted publications for covering the minimum state requirements under the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University -Varna in group "D" are a total of 19. Among them:

A book based on a thesis for the award of a doctoral degree

3 publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases

15 publications in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals.

Citations:

According to the academic citation reference, Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has 4 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases, and 17 citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH

Contributions related to the dissertation

Suicidal behavior is a serious medical and social problem not only in Bulgaria but also in worldwide. In his dissertation entitled "Cross-Cultural Analysis of Attitudes towards Suicide", Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has developed a problem of undoubted relevance. For the first time in Bulgaria a survey on suicidal attitudes has been made. Apart from the Bulgarian one, the survey also covers a foreign sample of English-speaking countries. A tool for assessing suicide attitudes in English and Bulgarian has been developed. Surveys are about suicide attitudes in different countries and socio-cultural communities, the relationship between suicide attitudes and depressive and anxiety experiences, with a history of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts, and with some socio-demographic characteristics.

Scientific contributions in the field are:

Testing and validation of a new methodology for assessing suicidal attitudes in Bulgarian and English language samples

Evaluating a correlation and influence between suicidal behavior and attitudes towards suicide, which can be used both for cross-cultural research and suicide prevention programs.

Conceptualizing a model for the study on suicide attitudes, allowing comparisons of different groups and communities with regard to suicidal attitudes.

Exploring the specificity of the cultural features of the suicidal attitude and establishing similarities and differences between Bulgarian and foreign samples.

Finding out of adverse life events and situations that most likely provoke suicidal behavior.

Exploring relationship and influence between anxiety and depression and suicidal attitudes.

Contributions related to the monographic work

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov's monographic work is entitled "Forensic Psychiatric Expertise in Family Law" and was published in 2019. It is an in-depth study of current issues in forensic psychiatric expert practice related to parenting, parental rights, and violence against children. The impact of the most common psychiatric disorders on parenting and the impact these disorders have on children and the family as a whole are examined in detail. Special attention is paid to the so-called. Parental alienation syndrome, which, although controversial among professionals, is gaining in popularity in case law.

The contributions are of a scientific and practical nature:

For the first time in Bulgaria a thorough analysis of the psychiatric aspects of parenting and family law has been made.

Examples of good and bad practices have been presented and suggestions have been made to optimize expertise.

A critical analysis of the theory of "parental alienation syndrome" and its use in the Bulgarian case law and expert practice has been made.

Other contributions and scientific areas

In the field of suicide science, Dr. Varbanov has applied 10 publications outside the dissertation discussed (7.1., 7.2., 7.3., 8.1., 8.2., 8.3., 8.6., 8.11., 8.12., 8.15). They discuss various aspects of suicidal behavior, risk factors for suicide, the behavior of medical professionals in the assessment of suicide risk, suicide prevention, and suicides by motor vehicles.

In the field of forensic psychiatry, 3 publications are presented outside the monograph (8.10., 8.13, 8.14). The contributions in the field are related to the forensic psychiatric aspects of violence against children, parental alienation, and defensive behavior in expert practice. Forensic psychiatric aspects of suicide are discussed in the dissertation.

In three of Dr. Varbanov's publications, problems related to depression, anxiety and stress have been explored (8.5., 8.7., 8.8.). The results of a screening study of depression and anxiety disorders in general practice are discussed. The relationship between depression and endocrinological pathology has been investigated. A study was conducted on the levels of stress and their relationship with anxiety and depressive symptoms at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

Other thematic areas in Dr. Varbanov's research work:

Schizophrenia

Alcohol and drugs use among children and adolescents

Neurocognitive disorders and psychiatric comorbidity in HIV patients.

Use of atypical AP in childhood.

AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS AND FORUMS

Dr. Varbanov has participated with reports at the 114th (2017) and 115th (2018) congresses of the Japan Association for Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN), as well as at the BPA Annual Scientific Conference.

He has been honored with a JSPN Fellowship Award from the Japan Association for Psychiatry and Neurology for his work on suicide in 2017 in Nagoya, Japan.

He has participated and has led international research teams in the field of the cross-cultural aspects of suicide.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has been a teacher at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Medical University of Varna since 2016, initially as an assistant and subsequently as a senior assistant. She teaches psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and medical psychology to medical, dental, pharmacy and health care students. He is in charge for the elective course in medical psychology for the English speaking medical students.

The record of teaching experience shows an average workload of 253 hours per school years, with 75% of the teaching being in English.

DIAGNOSTIC, MEDICAL AND EXPERT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Varbanov has 8 years of clinical psychiatric experience at the First Psychiatry Clinic at University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna. He works well in a team and strives to enrich his theoretical and practical knowledge.

In the field of forensic psychiatry, Dr. Varbanov has produced and participated in over 40 independent and complex forensic psychiatric examinations.

CONCLUSION

From the current review it is evident that the research activity and academic load of Dr. Svetlin Varbanov, PhD, meet in terms of both quantity and quality the contemporary criteria for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in all the parameters laid down in the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University -Varna .

On this basis, I give a positive opinion and propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor in Forensic Psychiatry to Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, PhD, for the needs of the Department of Psychiatry and medical psychology at Medical University –Varna

Varna, 10 Dec 2019


Prof. Dr. Hristo Kozhuharov, PhD

