

STANDPOINT

by **Professor Romyana Borisova Milkova, PhD** - Lecturer at the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Institute of Postgraduate Qualification, appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" by Executive Order No. RD-21-69 of 18. 01. 2023

Registered with NACID since 2019

Mobile: 0895553401 **E-mail:** milkovaru@abv.bg

Analysis and evaluation of materials submitted for participation in a competition for conferral of the academic title of "Professor" of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the professional field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences field 3.2. Psychology

Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD from the Department of Psychology of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" is participating in an announced competition for "Professor" position, promulgated in the Government Gazette, issue. 92 18. 11. 2022 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology, at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD has presented to the management of the University and the members of the scientific jury a total of 48 scientific and research papers for review, as part of the competition process: 1 monograph, 3 studies, 42 articles, 1 chapter of a collective monograph in co-authorship, 1 textbook. The distribution of scientific works in Bulgaria and abroad is as follows: 39 in Bulgaria and 9 abroad.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

The creative work and lecturing of Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD at Plovdiv University commenced in 1996, when she won an assistant professor competition. She went through the relevant assistant professor levels successively, and in 2010, after a scientific competition, she was habilitated and received the academic position "Associate Professor". In 2018 she was elected Head of the Department of Psychology which she presently heads.

During this period, she established the main part of her creative scientific publishing activity. She focuses her creative interests in the current developments of psychological knowledge in the field of pre-school and school age, i.e., child psychology, with areas of different thematic: communication in early childhood; parent-child relationships; health-well-being and communication; creative motivation and flourishing; individual-psychological aspects.

The submitted **habilitation work on "Communication, attachment and parental attitude in childhood"**, was published in 2020 with a total volume of 150 printed pages. The content of the monograph includes an introduction, four chapters, and literature references. The first chapter is dedicated to communication with adults, the second - to communication with peers, the third - to attachment, and the fourth - to parental attitude.

Child development is determined by many factors and mechanisms, and communication, attachment and parental attitude are amongst the most important of them. The monograph examines the emergence and development of the child's communication with adults and peers, affections, parental attitude towards the child from birth to the age of seven. The study by Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD was conducted through both theoretical and empirical research, referencing L. Vygotsky's cultural-historical theory, A. Leontiev's activity theory, D. Elkonin's periodisation of mental development and M. Lisina's concept of communication. The emergence of communication in early ontogenesis is traced and four criteria for the emergence of the need to communicate are defined: interest in the partner; emotional attitude towards them; initiative; sensitivity. Chapter one explores the very beginning of social interaction in the early stages of one's ontogenesis. Four criteria have been identified that must be satisfied for the need for communication to appear. They are as follows: interest towards a partner, emotional attitude toward a partner, initiative, and sensitivity. In addition, the four types of communication that develop consecutively up until the age of seven have been analysed: situational-interpersonal, situational-practical, extra-situational-cognitive and extra-situational-interpersonal. A very good continuity, scientific perseverance and purposefulness have been shown in the works of Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD. The experience, the excellent knowledge of modern problems of psychological science and its branches, as well as her practical activity, has permitted Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD to realise her ideas and offer us several theoretical and practical conclusions.

Since 2015 Assoc. Prof. Tagareva has participated in 7 international, national and university projects.

She is a supervisor of 5 PhD students who have successfully defended their theses and have obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

As a lecturer in psychology, **she has led the development and defence of diploma theses of 13 bachelors, 29 masters** from the "Psychology" discipline and 6 from other disciplines.

3. Evaluation of the personal contribution of Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD

All papers submitted for peer review are her own personal research. Style, language, and scientific apparatus used are consistent throughout and are distinguished by high scientific culture, erudition and competencies in the field of psychological literature. She skilfully handles scientific facts, analyses, and interprets them. She is well acquainted with the leading Bulgarian and foreign psychologists, working in the same field of problems she studied.

4. Personal impressions

I have the pleasure of knowing Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD since her first steps as an Assistant Professor at Shumen University. I have been involved in the development and the PhD dissertation defence in Moscow, her work at the Pedagogical College of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in Pazardzhik and her establishment as a leading specialist-researcher and lecturer at the Department of Psychology.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I sincerely advise Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD to continue her research and develop and defended a dissertation for obtaining the scientific degree "**Doctor of Science**".

CONCLUSION

The materials and research work, submitted by Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD, meet all the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations on the implementation of the DASRBA and the relevant Regulations of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works, published after the works used to defend the "PhD" and the habilitation for obtaining the "Associate Professor" title.

The works of Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD have made contributions of original scientific and applied practical value and have received substantial recognition, many of them have been published in renowned academic publishers' journals and collections.

The qualifications of Associate Professor Kirilka Tagareva, PhD in both scientific and lecturing are undeniable.

After a thorough acquaintance with the materials presented in the competition, and the analysis of their significance and the contained scientific, applied-scientific and applied practical contributions, I justifiably give my **positive assessment**.

I recommend to the members of the Honourable Scientific Jury of Plovdiv University to prepare a report-proposal to the faculty council at the Faculty of Pedagogy of PU, for the purposes of the Department of Psychology of Plovdiv University, to **confer the academic title "Professor"** in the professional field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and Age Psychology - Child Psychology) to **Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD**.

02.02.2023

Sofia

Referee:

(signature)

Prof., Dr. Romyana Milkova