

## SCIENTIFIC JURY'S MEMBER REVIEW

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for the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of

"professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.2.

"Psychology" (Educational and developmental psychology)

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of April 11, 2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy, assoc. prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov, DSc from "Paisii Hilendarski", University of Plovdiv participated as a candidate.

### 1. General presentation of the received materials

The scientific production of assoc. prof. submitted for review. Manol Manolov is excellently organized and correctly presents his research, expert and teaching work for the short period in which he was a lecturer at the University of Plovdiv. The candidate has correctly submitted all necessary documents for participation in the competition, including a complete list of publications with annotations and separation protocols, a list of citations, documents certifying scientific and research achievements, a report on contributions, implementations, etc.

The above gives me reason to conclude that all criteria and formal requirements for the conduct of the competition have been met, including the documentation and texts of scientific publications that exceed the scientometric requirements for holding this position.

By order No. PD-22-1331 of 10.06.25 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I am included as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position **"professor" at PU** by field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and age psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Pedagogy. Only one candidate, Assoc. Prof., has submitted documents to participate in the announced competition. Manol Manolov from the Paisii Hilendarski University.

Associate Professor Manolov submitted 20 scientific works: 5 monographs, 14 articles, 1 textbook, corresponding to the profile of the competition.

The scientometric report required by the current legal provisions and regulations of the University of Sofia for compliance with the minimum required points for the 6 groups of indicators for the candidate's participation in the announced competition not only covers, but with the indicated figure of 1124.1, almost doubles the number of points required for this academic position.

The Reference for Noted Citations lists scientific publications, including monographs, textbooks, manuals, articles and reports from participation in national and international scientific conferences, which have numerous citations in specialized publications.

I can confidently state that the quantity and quality of the full-text scientific papers submitted for review demonstrate a high level of expertise, originality, and professional

erudition and can definitely be defined as exceeding the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor."

I cannot help but note that the impressive production is complemented by the multitude of activities of a young but mature scientist who has found his way in science, has contributed to practical psychology, and continues to seek new horizons.

## **2. Brief biographical data**

Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov graduated in Psychology from Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", as well as a master's degree from the same university. In 2018. is defending his doctoral degree in Social Psychology at the VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", and since 2017 works as an assistant and chief assistant at the Department of Psychology at VTU. Previously, he worked as a psychologist at the Central Clinical and Educational Center of Medical Sciences - Sofia. Asenovgrad, later as manager of the same service, as a public educator, at the ICBCPMN. He is a member of several NGOs and professional organizations. He has mentioned numerous training courses in which he has participated or been a trainer, and is distinguished by his extensive project activity. In his creative biography, he indicated varying proficiency in two foreign languages. From 28.10.2021 was elected as an associate professor in 3.2. Psychology /Social Psychology/ at the Department of Psychology of University of Veliko Tarnovo. From 17.11.2023. is a doctor of psychological sciences with dissertation on the topic: "Analysis of Vincent van Gogh's letters and self-portraits in the context of the psychopathology of the Dead Self." He was an advisor to the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, chairman of several NGOs, an expert in court, head of scientific and social projects, author of numerous such projects, creator of methodological documents and guidelines, has undergone various, but subordinate to psychology and social work training, he himself is a trainer, expert, methodologist.

In the presented biography, I come across the following facts: 1. Purposefulness in favour of people in a risky situation / in need / 2. Desires to unify documents and methodological methods in the field of helping professions. 3. Linking theoretical and applied activities in psychological practice. 4. Consistency and improvement, constant search for opportunities for personal development. 5. Dedication, loyalty, expertise in every scientific and applied field.

## **3. General characteristics of the candidate's activities**

The teaching activities of Associate Professor Manol Manolov are distinguished by innovation, precision, professionalism and correctness. He is a teacher not only with a bright pedagogical presence but also strives to be useful to students and practitioners, including... and non-specialists, to publish learning resources in the form of tools and aids.

His scientific activity is also linked to the supervision of 2 successfully defended doctoral students and dozens of graduate students.

### *Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific activities*

The distribution of scientific works in the country and abroad is as follows: 10 in the country and 10 abroad. The list of publications that were not submitted for review testifies to extensive publication activity, primarily in the fields of social, pedagogical and age psychology.

I cannot help but note that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Manolov demonstrates an active civic

position on pressing social problems, seeking solutions and opportunities to help those in need /active volunteer work/, to train specialists in the field of helping professions, to prepare his students not only with knowledge and skills, but also with a responsible attitude and motivation for their future professional realization. His tendency to experiment, to search, to discover new fields of work is combined with moderation, precision, high morale, and collegiality, which are deficits in the contemporary scientific community.

The full bibliographic data is accurately and correctly described in the procedure documents. Original copies of the indicated monographs and manuals are provided, as well as copies of the studies, articles and reports published in the indicated sources.

Of the 20 scientific papers proposed for review, the following are available: monographs – 5 issues; articles published in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 2 issues; articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 12 issues; university textbook – 1. By number of co-authors: independent – 10 issues; with one co-author – 6 issues; with two co-authors – 4 issues.

Based on the review of their content, I consider it reasonable to conditionally identify them in 5 semantic fields, which reveal the dominants of research interest in the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Manolov.

1. First area: Temperament, identity, and parental influences - The interpreted problems relate to the diagnosis of child development, its application in pedagogical practice, and the planning and implementation of interventions in at-risk families. The creation and validation of a new psychometric model for Bulgarian conditions is a significant contribution.

2. Second area: Attitudes and relationships – I refer to it as the psychology of adult development, and here the emphasis falls mainly on attempts to expand knowledge about interpersonal relationships between people to predict and anticipate adequate interventions.

3. Third area: Identity and self-concept. The emphasis is on status models, torn self, and self-esteem – in addition to clinical diagnostics, techniques for intervention for problems in the self-concept of adolescents and adults are also found here.

4. Fourth area. Victimology and psychology of violence - attachment, prevention and interventions - an area that covers not only psychological, but also pedagogical and social work as an explanation and methodology for direct work with traumatized clients.

5. Fifth area: Ethnic identity and social memory - an interdisciplinary sphere that covers the fields of interests of political psychology, social psychology, folk psychology, linguistics, history, refracted through the eyes of the conscious adult.

Personally, I also define an area that I would attribute to pedagogical psychology, namely aspects of STEM education and the development of personal competencies in education.

In his habilitation thesis, Manolov, M. (2025). **"In the mirror of temperament. Development and challenges in early childhood.**" Publisher: Manol Manolov, printed by "Color Print BG" EOOD. ISBN 978-619-91664-6-8, p. 181, COBISS.BG-ID 70210312. Assoc. prof. M. Manolov, DSc, presents a detailed analysis of children's temperament as a biopsychosocial construct of key importance for early development. Already in the Introduction, the author's skills in formulating requirements are revealed. The criteria for a monographic study are hypotheses, goal, tasks, subject, object and methodological tools.

The first chapter examines and analyzes classical and contemporary interpretations of temperament as a stable personality structure and its mediating role between the environment and the biological essence of the personality. The author's critical attitude towards available theories, combined with an emphasis on the child's personality, the influence of biological and social factors, the parenting styles of parents, and the consequences in behavioral terms for the child's personality, demonstrate the author's developed skills in working with a theoretical array, extracting what is significant, and predicting the development of personality through a complex construct such as temperament.

The second chapter is based on the good traditions of organizing and conducting experimental research. The scope of the study is sufficient - 140 children aged 3-7 years, and the relationship between temperamental traits and strengths and difficulties in behavior and emotional regulation was sought. The hypotheses raised are proven with appropriate tools and strictly defined areas of research, and therefore the data analysis does not raise doubts, as do the generalizations drawn. Modern statistics support the data obtained, and visualization in a tabular format aid in the comprehension of the text. A contribution to this chapter is the paragraph "Discussion of the results", which reveals a comprehensive picture of the emotional, cognitive and behavioural characteristics within the studied group. The two hypotheses raised are proven for the existing significant correlations and regression models between specific temperamental traits and the manifestations of emotional and behavioural problems of children in the studied age period, for the interrelationship between temperamental traits and social adaptation and the additional assumption of parents' perception of difficulties in their children's temperament with the actual results of the studies.

The third chapter represents a logical conclusion to the theoretical and applied research, drawing a model of interventions based on the temperamental characteristics of preschool children. The strategies developed for working with parents, teachers and children are well thought out and fall within the key areas for psychological intervention in the targeted age period in Bulgarian conditions.

A concise conclusion helps the perception of the overall textual presentation.

*Summary.* This monograph addresses a significant problem for psychological science that has not been sufficiently developed, especially with regard to the period 3-7 years old children. Appropriate research has been conducted, and a working model for a specific country, consistent with the conditions, traditions and educational models, has been proposed, which can be easily implemented in practice.

The second monograph by assoc. prof. Manolov (2024). **Bulgarian cynicism. Cross-cultural analysis.** Veliko Tarnovo: "St. Cyril and st. Methodius", ISBN: 978-619-208-390-8, COBISS.BG-ID – 64344840 is a well-thought-out theoretical study that falls into the research field of social psychology at first glance, but upon closer reading, it can also be referred to the psychology of adult development. In this book, in addition to understanding the roots of Bulgarian cynicism as a defensive reaction to the social phenomena marked by the transition, attitudes related to low self-esteem, moral elitism and social alienation are also discovered, defined by the author as "self-discrimination" – a phenomenon introduced by him and defended in several publications. Another contribution of the work is the Interpersonal Victimization Scale (TIV) constructed for the Bulgarian population, a statistically confirmed four-factor structure, and culturally specific features in the Bulgarian context. The work also shows Manolov's attitude towards a new phenomenon for our country - the presence of English-

speaking citizens living in our country and allows us to highlight the similarities and differences in the studied rocks. What the author calls the “sad image of the Bulgarian” is realistically analysed, and what is more valuable in the book is that a number of practical solutions are also derived to help us successfully adapt to the changing reality.

The candidate's third monograph is co-authored with Ivanov, Iv. (2023). **Public policies regarding gender-role stereotypes and attitudes leading to violent relationships in the Bulgarian family (policies and practices)**. Veliko Tarnovo. Faber Publishing House. ISBN: 978-619-00-1612-0, COBISS.BG-ID - 59781640, 119 pages, correctly distributed with the required document. This is a publication that once again points us to a current problem, namely violence in the Bulgarian family, not only as a social phenomenon in itself, but also as attitudes and gender-role stereotypes towards it. The book examines traditional views of the phenomenon as influenced by historical events and folk psychological overlays, refracting them through attachment theory, analyzing both the perpetrator and the victim. Based on quantitative and qualitative analyses, the result of conducted research, data emerge that are definitely disturbing in nature – tolerance of violence, legitimacy of male control, and lack or greatly underestimated autonomy of women. It is noted that the unclear institutional framework and inadequate policy towards violence. The floods exacerbate this problem, especially in the more isolated regions of the country. Based on these findings, emphasis is placed on the need for systematic work with management structures and political elites in forming public policies that recognize, condemn and address violence as a social phenomenon.

The fourth monograph, co-authored with Dobrin Dobrev, called **"Political psychology in the field of Bulgarian ethno-psychological peculiarities."** Plovdiv. Manol Manolov Publishing House. (2021). ISBN: 978-619-91664-3-7, COBISS.BG-ID 44956680, p. from 257 -471 is an original critical reading of political psychology, interpreting it through the prism of Bulgarian ethno-psychological specifics. The part, whose author is the candidate, traces the historical stages in Bulgarian history by identifying the main features of the Bulgarian national character: ambivalence towards power, auto-stigmatization, collective fatalism and a deficit of political commitment. The most significant contribution of the monograph is the formulation of recommendations for restoring trust and leadership based on collective identity and historical awareness, as opposed to the model of “wandering political identity” as an explanatory framework for political behavior in Bulgaria.

The fifth monograph is again co-authored - with Ivan Stoyanov - 2021. **"Psychology of parenting styles in the field of life meaning."** University Publishing House "St. Cyril and St. Methodius", ISBN 978-619-208-151-5, COBISS.BG-ID 1285541860 p. 102-203. and explores the interaction between parenting styles and the subjective experience of meaning in life, integrating psychological, cultural, and systemic perspectives on the family. Much has been written about the typology of parenting styles, but not about the relationship between parenting style and the child's emotional development, social competence, and self-reflection as a condition for autonomy. Linking high levels of experienced life meaning with authoritative parenting leads to positive consequences on child development and vice versa. Here again, a relevant research tool has been created for diagnosing parenting style in Bulgarian conditions – in general, this tendency to confirm theoretical models with diagnostic procedures turns out to be a key component for the successful creative work of Assoc. Prof. Manolov.

The manual **"I am not a victim.!!"**, is aimed at: (1) persons who have experienced or are at risk of domestic violence; (2) specialists in the fields of social work, psychology and law;

and (3) students of social sciences and humanities preparing for professional work in the field of prevention, written in accessible language, is a very useful read, the main contribution of which is its integrative approach, combining educational, therapeutic and socio-pedagogical perspectives, which makes it applicable in university preparation, professional practice and self-help in crisis situations.

Among the most valuable elements in the scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov, presented in the series of articles and reports, are his inclination and abilities for theoretical-applied, innovative research; analysis and generalization of various ideological directions and methodological approaches in applied psychology; combination of empirical data and theoretical constructs into a comprehensive picture of the researched processes, his desire to shed light on various aspects affecting developmental psychology, pedagogical practice, and pressing social problems in society.

- The reading of the scientific publications of Assoc. Manol Manolov, his academic and teaching work can be briefly summarized as follows:
- First, as a teacher and scientist, he possesses theoretical training at a level that meets the criteria for contemporary, modern psychological science.
- Secondly, along with good theoretical preparation, we meet a prepared researcher, author of numerous valuable studies and, characteristic of Assoc. Prof. Manolov is that each analyzed phenomenon is supported by its own research.
- Third, diverse interests, marked by in-depth research, a critical attitude towards the knowledge gained so far, and one's own opinion, presented in a well-reasoned manner.
- Fourth, creating models, conceptualizing and proposing strategies for an adequate response to the observed social phenomenon.
- Fifth, his publications correspond reliably both with the scientific achievements of psychology and with current, expert psychological practices.

In the annexes to the documentation List of scientific works, including those outside the scope of this competition, the candidate has presented a full bibliographic description of his overall publication activity, which covers not only pedagogical and age psychology, but also social, personality psychology, folk psychology, and legal psychology. I also define this as a contribution, as it shows depth, holistiness, and shows a broad general culture that goes beyond the field of psychology.

*Contributions (scientific, applied science, applied) and citations:*

I am impressed not only by the erudition of assoc. prof. Manol Manolov's ability to skilfully handle a theoretical array, but also from his ability to plan, organize and conduct a number of studies that have the characteristic of implement ability, as well as from his developed abilities to statistically process data and interpret the obtained results.

I fully accept the applied contributions formulated by the author, contributions which I comment on as follows:

1. Organized by Assoc. Prof. M. Manolov are a number of studies on violence in the Bulgarian family, while at the same time adequate approaches are proposed for limiting this phenomenon, for prevention and for assisting victims of violence and providing support to the perpetrators themselves. Proposals in this direction have also been made regarding the regulatory and institutional framework, and they have been presented in the National Assembly and the European Parliament.

2. Diagnostic models for research, prevention, and strategies for influencing violence in educational environments have been developed, which can be points of reference for adapting similar ones in similar institutions, services, and systems.

3. Based on STEAM education, substantiated methodologies for the development of personal competencies (motivation, self-reflection, emotional intelligence) have been developed, applicable in the school environment and used as the basis for creating a multidimensional assessment tool.

4. An adapted temperament assessment scale for children aged 3 to 7 years has been proposed, which can be used by specialists in educational and clinical settings in the diagnosis and prognostic assessment of behavioural risks in preschool age.

5. The author's orientation when creating an article, monograph or report is a combination of a constructed research model, in-depth analysis of the results, methodological instructions for specialists and/or students on how to influence individuals in a risky situation. An example of this is the toolkit "I am not a victim".

6. The presented citations are 25 in total. Of these: citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 6; citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 13; citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 6. This list testifies to the author's recognition in prestigious publications.

#### **4. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate(s)**

I cannot help but express the opinion that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manolov is able to successfully achieve his research goals, demonstrates excellent knowledge of the issue, personal and professional commitment to it, as well as impressive skills for scientific research. I believe that it will be continued with the realization of future ideas that arose during the writing of his scientific works.

*The presented scientific papers are original scientific works. The submitted documentation, including the noted citations, are in order and meet all criteria within the meaning of the procedure for conducting this competition. The information from Manol Manolov's autobiography testifies to a gradual and dignified path to professional realization in the field of psychology.*

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks about the production and teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Manolov, but only a recommendation - to continue to develop his research potential and to publish in international publications included in global databases, as well as to continue to inspire students and colleagues for new scientific achievements.

#### **6. Personal impressions**

I have known Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov since 2017. and I have the honor of following his professional career since his election as assistant professor, chief assistant professor, associate professor and doctor of psychological sciences at the St. Cyril and Methodius University of Applied Sciences. I have wonderful impressions of him as a colleague, teacher, researcher, and expert. I believe that to a significant extent it meets one of the most important criteria for modern quality teaching, namely – achieved unity between

theoretical constructs, scientific facts and their practical verification. I define this trinity as essential. **contribution** of his research and teaching achievements. I am particularly impressed by his skills in inspiring students and colleagues, in searching for new, unexplored fields of scientific and practical work, and by his ethical attitude towards work, colleagues, and students.

### CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolo fully comply with all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the relevant Regulations of the "P. Hilendarski", University of Plovdiv.

The candidate in the competition **is** presented a significant number of scientific papers published after the materials used in holding the academic position of Associate Professor. and the scientific degree "Doctor of Science". The scientific works of Associate Professor Manol Manolov contain sufficiently original scientific and applied contributions that have received national and international recognition.

His theoretical developments have practical applicability, with some of them being directly oriented towards teaching work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Manolov is diverse enough.

The achievements of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov, PhD, results in academic and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Pedagogy for the implementation of the Law on the Education of the Republic of Bulgaria.

After reviewing the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition and analyzing their significance and the scientific, applied science and applied contributions contained in them, I find reasons to express my **positive** evaluation and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of the academic position of "professor" to **Assoc. Prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov** at the Paisiy Hilendarski University in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and age psychology).

07.07.2025

Reviewer: ... ..

(signature)

prof. Krasimira Petrova