

## **SCIENTIFIC JURY'S MEMBER REVIEW**

**by Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva - "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv**

**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**

By Order No. ПД-22-1331/10.06.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of “Professor” in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Educational and Age Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education of PU.

For participation in the announced competition were submitted documents by a single candidate: assoc. prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov from the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education of PU.

The set of materials submitted by assoc. prof. Manol Manolov in electronic and paper format is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of PU.

The candidate Manol Manolov has submitted a total of 29 scientific works: 9 monographs, 19 articles, 1 textbook.

20 scientific works: 5 monographs, 14 articles, 1 textbook were submitted to for review. The distribution of scientific works in the country and abroad is as follows: 13 in the country and 7 abroad.

Separation protocols for 10 collective publications are attached.

The applicant shall also submit: a reference on compliance with the minimum national requirements, annotations of the scientific works - in Bulgarian and English; self-assessment of the contributions - in Bulgarian and English; documents certifying the teaching and research activities,

including work with PhD students and graduates, participation in projects, supervision of research projects, etc.

Documents of compliance with the additional requirements of the Pedagogical Faculty of PU are also attached.

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov comply with all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU.

From the prepared scientometric report on compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements, the candidate meets the quantitative requirements for all groups of indicators, with the total number of points exceeding the minimum national and faculty requirements. The minimum points required for professor (national and faculty) are 660 points in total. The candidate's actual number of points is 1124.1.

## **2. Brief biographical data on the candidate**

Associate professor Manol Manolov was born in 1986. In 2012 he obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology at PU with a professional qualification of psychologist, teacher of psychology. In 2012 he obtained a master's degree in counselling psychology with a qualification of Counselling Psychologist at PU.

Since 2018 M. Manolov is a Doctor of Psychology, specialty social psychology. The scientific and educational degree "Doctor" he acquired at the University of Veliko Tarnovo with dissertation theme "Interaction models for reducing social isolation of non-standard groups".

Since 2021 he is an associate professor of psychology.

Since 2023, he is a doctor of psychological sciences. He obtained this degree at the University of Veliko Tarnovo by defending his dissertation entitled: "Analysis of Vincent van Gogh's letters and self-portraits in the context of the psychopathology of the Lifeless Self".

The professional career of Manolov is directly related to psychology, pedagogy and education - he worked as a psychologist, educator, as an advisor to the Minister of Education in 2021-2022, etc. The academic career of Manolov began at the University of Veliko Tarnovo where he successively held the positions of Assistant Professor, Chief Assistant Professor and Associate Professor from 2017 to 2024. From 2024 to the present day he has been working at PU, Department of Psychology as an Associate Professor.

The presented CV shows a consistent and upward educational, professional and career development of assoc. prof. Manol Manolov, DSc.

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

The teaching activity of the candidate Assoc. Manolov covers the following disciplines – developmental psychology; personality psychology; psychology of creativity; pedagogical psychology; counselling psychology, psychological researches and measurements etc. The academic courses taught correspond to the profile of the announced competition.

In his lecturer activities assoc. prof. Manolov demonstrates the ability to present the content of the courses at a high level of scientific knowledge with the application of innovative methods of work. In teaching, he successfully weaves in the results of his own scientific research. Assoc. prof. Manolov is able to inspire and motivate young people for research work. His communication with students is distinguished by fairness, tolerance, accessibility, but also by a high level of academic requirements.

For the purposes of students training, assoc. prof. Manolov publish “I am not a victim”. It covers topics related to the theory of violence, psychological profiles of victims and perpetrators, coping strategies, developing a safety plan, and knowledge of victims' rights. The handbook includes real-life examples and case studies and is valuable for university students and practitioners.

The assoc. prof. Manolov's work with students and postgraduates is varied: he has supervised 19 successful graduates in bachelor's and master's programmes at VTU, New Bulgarian University and PU. He is a supervisor of two PhD students who defended their dissertations – Aneta Yoveva, PhD with the dissertation topic “An Interpretation of Time Perception” and Mincho Minchev, PhD with the dissertation topic “The Influence of Social Psychological Mechanisms on Professional Choice”.

The publications submitted for review are distributed as follows: 20 scientific works: monographs - 5; articles published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information - 2; articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes - 12; university textbook - 1. Independent research papers - 10; with one co-author - 6; with two co-authors - 4. 10 in Bulgarian and 10 in English. The problems treated in them correspond to the profile of the announced competition and show the author's purposefulness in his scientific research and creative activity.

The articles and papers submitted for review have been published in prestigious Bulgarian and international journals.

The materials submitted for review do not repeat other materials with which Assoc. Manolov has participated in the procedure for the academic position of Associate Professor and in the procedure for the defence of the scientific degree of Doctor of Science.

The habilitation thesis of assoc. prof. Manolov "In the Mirror of Temperament. Development and Challenges in Early Childhood". Publisher: Manol Manolov, print „Colour Print BG“, 2025. ISBN 978-619-91664-6-8, pages 181. COBISS.BG-ID70210312. The author presents his own original research, carried out in the light of classical and contemporary models of temperament: Hippocrates, Galen, Alexander Thomas and Stella Chess, Mary Rothbart and Jerome Kagan , among others. The candidate's chosen theoretical basis of research is consistent with the historical tradition in the study of issues related to temperament and allows for the addition of a contemporary reading and successful continuation of a research-theoretical tradition in the field of temperament and child temperament.

The monograph contains three parts. The first part presents a theoretical background to the problem of temperament and child temperament. It discusses definitions of terms, typologies, parental influences on temperament, long-term consequences associated with temperament, and the impact of temperament on personality.

The second part presents its own empirical research. The experiment involved 140 preschool children, aged three to seven. Temperament assessment instruments (Rothbart questionnaire) and behavioural indicators (SDQ) were used. Analysis of the results confirmed significant correlations between negative emotionality, inhibitory control and social-emotional difficulties. The obtained results enrich the existing models of children's temperament and provide a basis for specific prevention and therapy activities in this direction.

The third part of the monograph offers strategies for working with parents, educators, and children. The author stresses that a "good match" between temperament and environment (goodness of fit) is a condition for mental well-being.

Manol Manolov, PhD, has published a monograph on the phenomenon of cynicism in the Bulgarian context. "Bulgarian cynicism. A cross-cultural analysis", 2024. This monograph presents a cross-cultural study involving samples from three socio-cultural backgrounds: Bulgaria, the UK and the USA. The author believes that Bulgarian cynicism is not just a negative attitude, but an adaptation strategy in conditions of social frustration, historical mistrust and institutional inefficiency.

The other three monographs by Assoc. Manol Manolov are co-authored. The monograph. "Public policies regarding gender-role stereotypes and attitudes leading to violent relationships in the Bulgarian family (policies and practices)" with Ivanov, Ivan; the monograph "Political Psychology in the Field of Bulgarian Ethnopsychological Features", 2021 is co-authored with D. Dobrev. The monograph Psychology of Parenting Styles in the Field of Meaning in Life, 2021 is co-authored with Iv. Stoyanov. The latter monograph offers a study of parenting styles and the subjec-

tive experience of meaning in life. The first part of the monograph is devoted to typologies of parenting behavior in Baumrind's model of authoritarian, authoritative, and enabling styles. The second part analyzes the family as a system, and the third part presents an empirical study with a Bulgarian sample, which finds that high levels of experienced life meaning correlate with more frequent manifestations of authoritative parenting. We could say that the monograph offers a new reading of issues at the intersection between developmental psychology and existential psychology.

Assoc. Manolov presents fourteen articles for review: four of them are independent and in Bulgarian and ten - in English: independent and co-authored.

There are seven articles in Bulgarian and seven in English, mainly on developmental and educational psychology: Experimental Developmental Psychology (Bulgarian adaptation of the Tendency for Interpersonal Victimization Scale, 2024); Adolescent Psychology (Dynamics of Self-Perceptions in the Field of Identity Statuses, 2024); Family Psychology and Social Work (A Review on Evidence-Based Approaches for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, 2023); Psychology of Adulthood and Psychology of Education (Cynicism as an Attitude in Bulgarians. Antecedents in Child Rearing, 2021); developmental psychology (Exploring the relationship between attachment style and the tendency for interpersonal victimhood in cross-cultural sample. 2023; Influence of Categories of Modernity in the Consciousness of Young People, 2019); parenting and child clinical psychology (Psychopathology of lifeless self. Conceptualization and linguistic model in Vincent van Gogh's letters to his brother Theo 2023).

The scientific articles co-authored and in English are devoted to a variety of topics in educational and developmental psychology and to topics dealing with boundary connections with other fields in psychology: family psychology (Manolov, M., Ivanov, Iv., Chavdarova, V. Gender-Role Stereotypes in the Bulgarian Family: Cross-Generational Transmission of Gender Attitudes. 2023); adolescent psychology (Manolov, M., Stoyanov, Iv. The relationship between coping strategies and attachment styles in adolescents: implications for psychological resilience, 2025); educational psychology (Manolov, M., Avramova-Todorova, G. Development of personal competences through stem: evidence-based methods and their use in educational systems, 2023); psychoanalysis and developmental psychology (Manolov, M., Stoyanov, Iv., Georgieva, Zl. Social Inheritance of Fear, 2020); general and developmental psychology (Manolov, M., Voznyuk, A. On the problem of human consciousness: from facts to theoretical speculations, 2019); social and developmental psychology (Manolov, M., Stoyanov, Iv., Georgieva, Zl., Trifonova-Dimitrova, P. Social Inheritance in the Context of Psychology, 2018); psychology of upbringing (Manolov, M., Stoyanov, Iv., Georgieva, Zl. The Role of Bulgarian Proverbs in the Modern Family, 2019).

The publications show the development of the candidate with the inclusion of contemporary topics complementing his main research focus.

The contributions of Manol Manolov in theoretical and research-applied field are in several areas of scientific knowledge:

**Temperament, Identity, and Parental Influences.** In this area, child temperament and behavioral difficulties in preschoolers have been studied. A model of the relationship between temperament and behavioral difficulties in preschool children based on standardized instruments (Rothbart, SDQ) has been empirically validated and proposed.

A concept of the parental role as a carrier of existential meaning, the lack of which leads to inauthoritative behavior towards the child, is formulated.

A transgenerational mechanism for the transmission of fear and anxiety through unconscious character structures and compensatory parenting strategies is described.

**Attitudes and relationships.** Here, the Tendency of Interpersonal Victimhood Scale (TIV) is adapted for the Bulgarian cultural environment, with a statistically validated four-factor structure and culturally specific features.

**Identity and self-concept.** Status patterns, disrupted self, and self-evaluation. Identity statuses, the influence of self-structures have been studied in this area. A linguistic and cognitive analysis of traumatic identity is proposed through an analysis of creativity and narrative in the letters of Vincent van Gogh. It is shown that personality fragmentation and an unintegrated self-continuum correlate with increased anxiety and emotional maladjustment.

**Victimology and the psychology of violence** - attachment, prevention and interventions. A methodology for assessing and working with victims of domestic violence is proposed here, covering cognitive, emotional and legal aspects.

The relationship between anxious and avoidant attachment and the propensity for interpersonal victimization in adolescents and adults is empirically demonstrated.

A model of cyclic victimization is presented in which experienced trauma leads to cognitive rumination and repetition of violence in close relationships.

**Ethnic identity and social memory.** In this area, “wandering political identity”, collective fear and mistrust, and weak identification of statehood in older Bulgarians have been studied.

The numerous theoretical and empirical studies in the five outlined areas are characterized by precision, availability of sufficient empirical evidence, use of modern statistical methods for data processing and adequate conclusions. Many of them have practical applications and can be used in practice by psychologists, social workers and other researchers.

#### **4. Contributions (scientific, applied) and citations**

The evidence presented by the candidate includes a self-assessment of the scientific contributions, the significance in five leading thematic areas and the applied contributions, which I fully accept. The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov to the research fund of psychology significantly enrich the knowledge of child temperament, identity, parenting, interpersonal attitudes and self-concept, violence prevention and psychological vulnerability. The author's methodologies created and adapted are in a form that is fully applicable in practice and enable the development and testing of research hypotheses and the implementation of diagnostic and exploratory work in practice by psychologists confronted with problems of this nature. They are particularly valuable given the ever-increasing need to create and adapt research and diagnostic tools.

The significance of the results of the theoretical and research work of Assoc. Prof. Manolov is recognized not only at the national, but also at the international level, which is evidenced by the publications in refereed and indexed journals and by the citations presented. The submitted citations total 25. Of these: citations in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information - 6 numbers; citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review - 13 numbers; citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review - 6 numbers.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for holding the academic position of "professor" have been fully met.

#### **4. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution**

The presented scientific works are original scientific developments. Most of the studies conducted were carried out independently, and those in which collaborative work was done show teamwork skills in planning, in conducting the research and in summarising the results.

The documentation submitted, including the citations noted, is in order and fulfils all the criteria under the present competition procedure.

#### **5. Critical comments and recommendations**

I have no critical comments. I recommend assoc. prof. Manol Manolov to further develop his research and lecturer's potential in the field of developmental psychology and educational psychology.

##### **Personal impressions**

I know M. Manolov as a psychology student at PU, distinguished by strong cognitive interest, consistency and innovation. As a person and colleague assoc. prof. Manolov is characterized by

calm character, collegiality, patience and responsibility. He has excellent presentation skills and the ability to inspire and stimulate colleagues, students and PhD students.

During the period of my work on the review, I did not find any texts that could be defined as plagiarism and I did not receive any reports of such.

### **Conclusion**

The documents and materials submitted by assoc. prof. Manol Manolov meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the law, the Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University and the Additional Faculty Requirements of the Faculty of Education of Plovdiv University.

The candidate in the competition has submitted enough scientific works published after the materials used in the defence of the degree of Doctor of Science and the competition for the position of Associate Professor. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative number of which have been published in journals and scientific collections published by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to teaching work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov is undoubted.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov in the lectures and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of the Law on Education.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it justified to give my positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" for the selection of Assoc. prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov to the academic position of "Professor" at "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Pedagogy in "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.2. Psychology (Educational and Developmental Psychology).

15.07.2025

Reviewer: .....

prof. Kirilka Tagareva, PhD