

REVIEW

from Professor Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova, MD, PhD,
South-West University "Neofit Rilski", professional field 3.4. Social activities,
of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in professional field 3.4. Social activities, announced by New
Bulgarian University, Department of "Healthcare and Social Work" in the State Gazette, Issue
no 97/13.11.2020, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Rumen Goranov Petrov, PhD

Rumen Petrov was born on December 31, 1965, in Sofia, Bulgaria. In 1993 he obtained a degree in medicine from the Higher Medical Institute, Sofia, acquired his degree in psychiatry in 1998, and since 1997 he has been a licensed psychodrama therapist (Psychodrama Institute in Uberlingen, Germany). In 2011 Rumen Petrov defended his dissertation: Collaboration and Vulnerability. A Psycho-social study of the emerging Concept of Community Development. A Bulgarian Case " at the University of West England, Bristol, UK.

He has extensive professional experience as a psychiatrist and consultant at Alexandrovka University Hospital, Vincent Van Gogh Day Care Center for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, as well as private psychotherapeutic practice.

In 1993 he began working at the New Bulgarian University, successively as secretary of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, assistant in Group Relations - Bulgarian Institute for Human Relations at NBU. Since 2014 he has been a chief assistant professor at the Department of Health and Social Work, where he still works. He speaks English and French.

I. Assessment for compliance with the minimal national requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University

The materials presented by Ch. Assist. Prof. Rumen Petrov, Ph.D., for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.4. Social activities in department "Healthcare and Social Work", area of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, comply with the requirements in the Annex to Art. 1a, para. 1 of Regulations for application of the Law/ the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the internal regulations of New Bulgarian University.

II. Scientific (artistic) work and results

For participation in the competition Chief Assistant Dr. Rumen Petrov presented 18 publications, distributed as follows:

- one “monograph based on a defended dissertation”;
- one habilitation work - monograph;
- two articles published in scientific journals, refereed/peer reviewed and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (co-authored);
- nine publications in non-peer reviewed/non-refereed journals with a scientific review (single-author publications – 8, co-authored publications – 1)
- published chapters in five collective monographs (single-author - 1, co-authored - 4).

The publications are written in Bulgarian (10), English (7) and French (1). All articles and book chapters are published in peer review editions – journals and books.

The habilitation paper "Confused in Pain: Social Trauma and Social Responsibility" is 355 pages long and contains a preface, history of contexts, introduction, eight chapters divided into four parts.

The monograph presents a new view on social work outside the narrow framework of social assistance, outlining the importance and impact of the broad social context. The multifaceted nature of social trauma is examined, analyzed within the framework of poverty, nationalism, totalitarianism, and with an emphasis on social policies for marginalized groups - people with disabilities, prisoners. The idea of restorative justice was introduced, presenting the conditions for its implementation in Bulgaria, based on a detailed study of Norway's experience in this area.

A critical analysis of social work training was made with a reasoned proposal for its change with an emphasis on social philosophy, history of social work, application of restorative approaches based on "ethical reflective work with the past", introduction of psychodynamic theory and practice.

In summary, contributions of the monograph are:

1. Introduction of a new vision of social work "as work to establish and maintain a social connection" based on critical analyzes from a historical perspective on the processes,

phenomena, and ways in which "human sociality can be harmed". Emphasis is placed on justice, human rights, ethical principles.

2. Critical analysis of social policies regarding discrimination and new forms of institutionalism.
3. Reasoned proposals for enrichment and improvement of training in social work with an emphasis on establishing interdisciplinary links through the integration of the problems of social work in the humanities; taking into account the importance of social history for building ethical norms and attitudes towards helping, of critical reflection; social responsibility and the opportunity to look at "social injustice in a broader context".
4. Presentation and justification of restorative justice, based on "ethical positions" and not only on psychological or social "evidence", as a "broad basis for organizing social work".

The scientific production of the candidate has a pronounced interdisciplinary character, with a distinguished essayistic and self-reflexive style of presenting the considered problems.

In his research, the candidate has presented publications, projects and research in several main areas: community development, local democracy, decentralization and civic participation; mental health and criminal justice; restorative justice, the humanities and social trauma.

Some of the publications are dedicated to the development of civil society - typology and understanding of non-governmental public action (Miller et al., 2009), interaction and cooperation between voluntary and non-profit associations and various external organizations (Berger et al., 2016). , scope and trends of volunteering and non-profit associations / organizations (Smith et al.2016).

Based on a study of international experience, the candidate also contributes to the development of models for restorative justice by outlining the role of social work in it (Petrov, 2014, 2015).

In some of the publications (Petrov, 2014), through the psychoanalytic perspective (Object relations theory of Melanie Klein), Rumen Petrov presents global social problems such as poverty, violence, terrorism, conflict resolution and emotional aspects.... ", which becomes "essential for the survival of the participants" in human relationships.

Important for the practice are the results of the studies of the conditions in the prisons and the lack of adequate support and care for the prisoners with mental health problems (Tomov, Petrov, 2009).

Ch. Assist. Prof. Rumen Petrov has the ability and skills to systematize and critically comprehend theories and approaches from various scientific fields - humanities, law, psychology, psychoanalysis, sociology, as well as to analyze global problems in the broad context of social work (Petrov, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014; Miller et al., 2009).). The applied contribution is found in the opportunities to use the results from critical analysis of extended socio-political context in the training of students in social work.

Through his research and publications, Rumen Petrov enriches the theory of social work building a bridge between the fields included in the broad field of social and legal sciences (sociology, psychology, psychoanalysis, law, political science), humanities (social philosophy, social history), and medicine (psychiatry).

The number of citations, presented by the candidate is 32:

- four citations or reviews in scientific publication, referenced and indexed in the world known databases of scientific information (Scopus, Web of Science);
- nineteen citations in monographs and collective peer-reviewed volumes.

Rumen Petrov participates in 21 educational and research projects – 8 national and 13 international (consultant, expert, contractor). Thematically, most of the projects are related to social work and contribute to: the policies for people with disabilities - integration and rights of people with disabilities, entrepreneurship; construction of a new type of services, deinstitutionalization of child care; improving inter-institutional cooperation and work with prisoners with mental health problems and adaptation of prison inmates; improving social work training for children and families in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Within the projects, a number of participations in conferences, seminars, and publications have been realized.

Rumen Petrov is also the leader of the international project "Mediation and Reconciliation in Bulgarian Society. Norwegian-Bulgarian Cooperation" under the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The project aims to develop competencies and deepen the understanding of conciliation justice in justice and social work practitioners, building on the

experience of Norway. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of work of key juvenile justice courts, as well as the reform of juvenile justice in Bulgaria.

The candidate in the competition leads a research program "Social Trauma and Social Responsibility".

III. Educational and teaching activity

Ch.Assist. Prof. Dr. Rumen Petrov has been teaching in the program of Clinical social work at NBU since its establishment. He gives lectures, conducts seminars and exercises in disciplines that thematically correspond to his scientific interests, achievements, and professional expertise. He has developed – independently and in a team – 21 training courses for students in Social work, Psychology, Sociology, Law. He has three courses taught in English: Therapeutic programs for persons with intellectual disabilities, Group Dynamics in the 21st Century, Life Cycle - Key Moments of Networking.

The candidate in the competition takes an active part in improving the study programs of the Department of Health and Social Work and develops/designs courses, presented in the electronic training module MOODLE - NBU.

Ch.Assist. Prof. Dr. Rumen Petrov has also participated in the creation and implementation of the master's program "Psycho-social interventions with children and families" (2018/2019) in the professional field 3.4. Social activities. He works together with students under the project "Evaluation of the process of deinstitutionalization of child care in Bulgaria", Know-how Center for Alternative Child Care, NBU, and he reviews master's theses of students from the master's program in "Clinical Social Work".

The average grade from the student opinion survey for the respective academic years 2015 / 2016 - 2018 / 2019 is 4.71, with scores ranging from 3.70 to 5.33.

Apart from NBU, the candidate in the competition has proven teaching experience in other universities in the country: Burgas Free University; Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"; Medical University of Sofia; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

IV. Administrative and public activity

Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Rumen Petrov is a member of the program council of the Department of Health and Social Work of the New Bulgarian University and of the department council. He is a member of a number of professional and public organizations:

- International Association of Group Therapy (IAGP)
- OPUS – an Organization for Promoting Understanding of Society (London)
- Bulgarian Association of Psychotherapy
- Bulgarian Psychiatric Association
- European Forum for Restorative Justice
- Society „Justice and reconciliation ”, board member
- Council for Restorative Justice at the Ministry of Justice (2014-2016)
- Marginalia Human Rights Association
- Member of the editorial board (associate editor) of *Voluntaristics Review*, Brill.
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V. Personal impressions of the candidate

Although I have vague personal observations, my professional impressions of Rumen Petrov are of an expert, researcher, and lecturer dedicated to psychosocial work, with a firm civil position.

V. Opinions, suggestions and notes on the activities and achievement of the candidate

I recommend to Dr. Rumen Petrov to expand the application of psychosocial methods in the field of social work, to continue the establishment of interdisciplinary cooperation in the process of optimizing social work as a practice, scientific field, and teaching, as well as to publish the experience gained over the years in teaching materials for students and professionals from the helping professions.

Conclusion

In view of the above, I give a positive assessment of the overall academic activity of Ch. Assist. Prof. Rumen Petrov, PhD and I propose to be admitted to election by the Academic Council for the academic position of "Associate Professor", PN 3.4. Social activities, field of higher education 3. Economic, social and legal sciences, for the needs of Department of Health and Social Work, New Bulgarian University.

22. 02.2021
Blagoevgrad

Reviewer:
(Prof. Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova)