

# OPINION

By **Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Vatkova Todorova, PhD**

Professional direction 7.4. Public Health

New Bulgarian University

On scientific works for participation in a competition for the academic position of associate professor, by professional direction 7.4. Public Health, announced in DV, no. 50/09/06/2023

Candidate: **Assist. Prof. Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev, PhD**

## **I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University**

In accordance with the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the additional requirements of the New Bulgarian University for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", Assist. Prof. Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev, PhD fulfills the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities in a professional direction 7.4. Public Health.

## **II. Research (creative) activity and results**

As a candidate for the competition, Assist. Prof. Svetlozar Vassilev, PhD presents a monograph on the topic "The Mirror of the Imagination. Psychoanalysis of the film experience", where the author presents an in-depth scientific analysis in an interdisciplinary field between psychoanalysis and film art that is insufficiently popular for Bulgarian research practice. The content of the book reflects specific Bulgarian experience gained within the framework of the "Psychoanalysis and Cinema" initiative, created by the candidate and including a team of psychoanalysts, psychotherapists and university professors. Her method is based on the understanding that psychoanalytic film reading requires consideration not only of the aesthetic and meaningful messages of the work, but also of emotional experiences. In a thorough and scientific, but at the same time fascinating, clear and understandable way, Svetlozar Vassilev analyzes the methods by which the psychoanalytic ideas of the 20th and 21st centuries are expressed in the visual arts and symbolized in the plot and film structure. On the other hand, the opposite process is also examined, in which the cinema can offer its discoveries to be used by psychoanalysis. Last but not least, the role that cinema and psychoanalysis have on culture and social processes related to the reworking of taboos, traumas and prejudices regarding childhood, sexuality, mental disorders, gender, race and class division is noted. The presented monograph fully meets the requirements for habilitation work.

Dr. Vassilev's candidacy is also supported by five publications in refereed and indexed world-renowned scientific information databases, three publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, six chapters of various collective monographs.

According to the citation data of the scientific works, Assist. Prof. Svetlozar Vassilev presents a reference for seven citations in referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.

The presented scientific publications and their citations meet not only the requirements of the announced competition, but are also a marker of a strong international presence of the author in the field of his professional and scientific interests.

The project activity of Assist. Prof. Svetlozar Vasilev includes active participation in four national and international, scientific and educational projects, in the field of clinical psychoanalysis, supervision and training. Implements the guide for Bulgaria of the international project "Child and adolescent mental health in an expanding Europe: revision of policies and practices", financed by the European Commission.

### **III. Learning and teaching activity**

Svetlozar Vasilev is a leading teacher in general education courses, as well as in various bachelor's and master's programs at NBU. The scope of his teaching work fully meets the requirements of the university. Its average score on student satisfaction surveys with course and instructor is over 5.50.

### **IV. Administrative and public activity**

Svetlozar Vasilev carries out active public and administrative activities. He is a member of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association, the Bulgarian Psychoanalytic Society, the International Psychoanalytic Association-IPA (direct member), the European Psychoanalytic Federation-EPF, the International Association for Early Psychosis-IEPA, and the Management Board of the Center for Support of Students with SEN, NBU. Actively participates in various intra-institutional training initiatives of the NBU, related to the activities of the Teaching Cafe, the Career Development Center and the Student Support Center. One of the initiators is for the creation of a university rugby team at NBU.

### **Conclusion**

**On the basis of the above, I am fully convinced that the presented by the Assist. Prof. Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev, PhD, materials for the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional direction 7.4. Public Health fully meet the requirements and I strongly support his candidacy.**

Sofia, September 15, 2023.

Signature  
Assoc. Prof.

  
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