

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof.. Mirena Damianova Legurska, Ph.D. – Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski ", Department for Information and In-Service Training of Teachers, regarding the submitted documents for participation in a selection procedure (State Gazette No. 21/15.03.2022) for filling the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " in the subject area 1.3. Pedagogy of History Teaching (Methodology of History Teaching) at the Department of Archival Science and Methodology of History Teaching at the Faculty of History.

I. Procedure and presentation of the applicant.

This single candidate has submitted documentation supporting his participation in the advertised selection procedure: Chief Assistant Krasimir Sashkov Krastev, Ph.D. The documents for the competition include a set of materials submitted both on paper and electronically. They have been carefully systematized in accordance with the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRBA), the Regulations on the Implementation of this Act, as well as the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

II. Evaluation and contributions of the applicant's scientific output.

The scientific output of Chief Assistant Professor Krasimir Krastev, Ph.D. includes 47 publications. For participation in the selection procedure, the applicant has submitted 23 of them for review, including 1 monograph - habilitation thesis, 1 book based on a dissertation defense, 2 studies published in various publications including the National Reference List; also, 19 articles, 4 of which were published in "The Web of Science". The aforementioned applicant has been cited 162 times, out of which: 19 times in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, 62 times in monographs and volumes in common containing a scientific review, and 81 citations or reviews in non-referenced journals, also containing a scientific review. These publications and citations are not only sufficient, but exceed multiple times the minimum scientometric indicators required for obtaining the academic title of Associate Professor.

A work of particular value to the methodology of teaching history is the submitted monograph entitled "The Methods of Active Learning in the History Lesson". It deals with current issues concerning the state of teaching the school subject "History and Civilisations", as well as some innovative solutions for teaching History and Civilizations in high school. An impressive 565 pages develop an in-depth theoretical and empirical study, relating to Modern History lesson and emphasizing on the methodology of the lesson as a fundamental form of learning. Great

importance is also given to active methods within the context of the constructivist concept and approach to active learning.

Some of the most significant contributions included in the monograph above are the following:

- A comprehensive theoretical and applied model of the modern lesson in History and Civilizations has been developed, including the technology of the lesson, its structure, rules, main problems and methodological steps to be taken for its implementation;
- A new understanding of the "lesson-exercise" type of lesson is presented. It is divided into a lesson for internalisation and a lesson for application of techniques of historical knowledge;
- 57 methods/techniques for active learning have been theoretically developed, analyzed and approved. Their effectiveness has been tested according to the student's abilities and age, as well as in distance learning;
- For each of the methods/techniques an example is given of how they can be implemented in a particular phase and component of the lesson. For this purpose, there is a specially developed methodological constructor at the end of the monograph;
- There are methodological constructs of lessons which I consider to be very valuable for the pedagogical practice. They contain various examples of how these methods/techniques for active learning can be applied;
- In order to validate the methods and techniques of active learning as described in the monograph, a proper empirical study was conducted, that included a didactic experiment, an observation, and five polls. The results of the study were presented graphically and analyzed thoroughly.

The other peer-reviewed publications systematize the original and innovative scientific concepts of Krasimir Krastev in the field of modern methodology for teaching History. They offer valuable methodological solutions related to the following:

- Formation of skills of chronological localization in teaching of History and Civilizations in the secondary level of graduate studies of the basic educational degree;
- Application, in the teaching of history and civilizations, of the "hexagon" method, aimed at the development of the students' logical thinking and creative abilities;
- Application, in the teaching of high school students, of the innovative game approach named "Crosssense";
- Application of verbal logical games, didactic games with rules as well as game technologies in the teaching of History and Civilizations and other subjects.

III. Teaching, project and other activities of the applicant

The teaching activities of Krasimir Krastev, Ph.D. are rich and varied. They include two compulsory courses, four electives and five optional courses. He is an Academic Supervisor of theses in the Master program "Didactics in History in the Secondary School". In 2014 the applicant was awarded the prize "Best Young Scientist" by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". He is a member of the Association of Byzantinologists and Medievalists in Bulgaria (2013 – to date). He is involved in two projects and participates in the organising committees of seven national conferences and seminars.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there is no evidence of plagiarism in the scientific papers submitted for the selection procedure, as required by the legal regulation in this regard. The results achieved by the Chief Assistant Krasimir Krastev, PhD in the field of teaching and research activity fully comply with all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRBA), with the Regulations on the Implementation of DASRBA and the relevant regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Therefore, I confidently give my positive evaluation and recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to prepare a report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the appointment of Chief Assistant Krasimir Sashkov Krastev, Ph.D. to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching... (Methodology of History Teaching).

14.06. 2022

Sofia

This statement was prepared by:

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