

OPINION

by **Prof. Vesela Ivanova Geleva, PhD**, Lecturer in Choral Conducting at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, Faculty of Music Pedagogy, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv

for **Asst. Professor Liliya Vitkova Stoilova, PhD**, Lecturer in Methodology of Music Education, Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, candidate in competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, major 'Psychology and Pedagogy' in the professional field 1.3. 'Methodology of Education in....'

In the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 5 dated January 16, 2024, Asst. Prof. Liliya Stoilova, PhD, participated with a monographic work /'Motivational Determinants of Young People's Choice of the Teaching Profession', 2023 issued by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv, ISBN 978-619-7682-31-1/, a book published on the basis of a dissertation /'Everyday Troubles, Coping Strategies and Life Satisfaction During the Aging Period' 2021 issued by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv, ISBN: 978-954-2963-80-6/, articles and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information /5/ and articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes /24/. The attached reference for fulfilment of the minimum scientific requirements shows a rich and varied activity, exceeding many times what is required. All documents submitted according to the procedural regulations are in order and fully satisfy the scientometric standards.

The candidate Liliya Stoilova was born in Plovdiv. She graduated with honours from *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv with two majors: 'Psychology' and 'Slavic Philology - Serbian and Croatian', and then a master's degree in 'Social and Legal Psychology' at *St. Kliment Ohridski* University of Sofia. As a PhD student at *P. Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv, she specialized in the city of Ljubljana /Slovenia/, and in 2014 at St. Petersburg State University, Russia, where she successfully defended her dissertation paper. In 2023 she completed another Master's degree – 'Modern Educational Technologies' at the Faculty of Pedagogy at *St. Kliment Ohridski* University of Sofia. From 2012 to 2016, she conducted seminars in 'Developmental Psychology' in the majors of Primary School Pedagogy and Foreign Language, 'Social Pedagogy', 'Psychology' and 'Social Activities' at *P. Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv. In 2018, she won a scholarship competition under the 'Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers' program of the Ministry of Education at *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv and four of her articles have been published in Scopus and Web

of Science. She has participated in the European Psychological Congress in Moscow and has authored over 40 publications. She has an h-index of 5 in Google Scholar and 4 in Researchgate. Since 2016 till now, Asst. Prof. Liliya Stoilova, PhD is a lecturer at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv, where she teaches the courses of General and Age Psychology, Psychology of Art, Differential Psychology, Pathopsychology, Psychology of Giftedness in the Bachelor and Master academic degree programmes.

The monograph ‘Motivational Determinants of Young People’s Choice of the Teaching Profession’, presented as a habilitation thesis, provides a comprehensive review of the factors that motivate young people to commit to the teaching profession, but also to leave it. The thesis contains 153 pages and is structured in three chapters. The literature used includes 112 references, 88 of which are in English. 23 graphs and 9 tables are used to illustrate the applied tasks and to analyse the results. The large-scale study implemented among 170 students studying pedagogical majors, 247 teachers and 409 students in grades 11-12, aimed to search for and identify the causes of motivation and demotivation in choosing a teaching career: support from the team and administration, school climate; profession induction programs and mentoring; teachers’ working conditions, social perception of the status of the teaching profession, etc. The results obtained from the study can be practically applied by administrators in schools, experts in the Ministry of Education who develop educational strategies and policies, researchers working in this field in order to optimize the state of the Bulgarian education system and overcome the resource crisis for well-trained teaching staff in Bulgaria.

The published **book, based on a defended dissertation ‘Everyday Adversities, Coping Strategies and Life Satisfaction in Aging’**, presents research on the psychological problems of the elderly and the everyday adversities they face, their coping and the process of adaptation and achieving life satisfaction. An analysis of the empirical data of the study is made based on a survey of 720 elderly people. The generalized findings can be used as a starting point for therapeutic work with representatives of the elderly. Three methodologies have been approbated and standardized for a Bulgarian selection of elderly people that can be applied in social practice. On the basis of the data obtained it is possible to develop a programme of work towards improving the mental status of the elderly and their satisfaction with life, which will offer new ideas to psychologists, social workers and directors of institutions for the elderly. The research is increasingly relevant, given the negative demographic trends and the ageing population in our country.

The attached **articles and publications** of the candidate prove a high professional level, a thorough and systematic scientific presentation of various theoretical and applied ideas developed in contemporary psychology, an analytical interest in the most current topics of the social-educational system and, last but not least, a desire for a competent and erudite impact in the field of contemporary psychological practice. The research

conducted by Asst. Prof. Stoilova, PhD, demonstrates her versatile interests in a number of socially significant areas of education and age psychology, innovative ideas and a drive to apply them in real-world settings for transformational and positive social impact. Her participation in numerous prestigious scientific forums, where her name is established and authoritatively defended at the highest scientific level, is highly commendable.

My personal impressions about the Asst. Prof. Liliya Stoilova, PhD are related to our collegial partnership in the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, of which I am currently the Head and she is the Secretary. I would highlight her precision, ethics, goodwill, responsibility and empathy for the problems of the scientific unit, which makes her an authoritative, respected and beloved colleague and lecturer.

In conclusion of all the above, taking into account the above contributions, the overall scientific research activity, the teaching experience and the personal professional qualities of the candidate, I strongly support the candidature of Asst. Prof. Liliya Stoilova, PhD for the academic position of Associate Professor, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, major 'Methodology of Music Education' in professional field 1.3. 'Methodology of Education in....' and I wish success and satisfaction in her future scientific and teaching activity.

June 11, 2024

Prof. Vesela Geleva, PhD