

OPINION

by Prof. Rossen Kostadinov Stoyanov, Ph.D.

Professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences

New Bulgarian University

November 13, 2023

Subject: the candidature of Plamen Atanasov Atanasov, Ph.D., for the degree of Doctor of Science, in scientific field 9., professional field 9.1. National Security.

A dissertation on „Security and Communication“ has been submitted for the competition. I find the research and the issues addressed to be relevant, of practical and applied value. I appreciate the author's effort as interdisciplinary.

Assessment of the applicant's research/creative work.

In 2017. Plamen Atanasov successfully defended his dissertation and received the scientific degree „Doctor“ in 3.5. D. in Public Communications and Information Sciences, with the topic „The Role of Computer-Mediated Communication in Inducing and Managing Reputational Crises. A study of the content of blogs, corporate and information sites, discussion and topic forums and social networks related to reputational and managerial crises“.

According to the reference provided for the minimum requirements, the dissertation of the colleague Atanasov has not been published.

A sufficient number of articles of the author published in publications of the required prestige in the relevant scientific field and professional field is indicated.

The candidate formally fulfils the requirements of the „Minimum Requirements for the Scientific, Teaching and/or Artistic and Creative Activities of Candidates for Academic Positions in the Professional Fields in Accordance with the law on the development of academic staff in Bulgaria“.

Relevance of the chosen methodology and research methodology to the stated aim and objectives of the dissertation.

The relevance and topicality of the topic are present and well defended. The method and methodology of the study are clearly defined.

There is a clearly defined main research question and hypothesis, which the author refers to parenthetically as the „working thesis“. The distinction between thesis and hypothesis is available and principally defined in the research paradigm and in this sense, I believe that the thesis of the research is missing in this text.

There is a description of the structure and content of the thesis. A limitation of the research is correctly set – a description of the main issues and topics that will not be covered in the text. An analysis of the state of the research problems is made.

Availability of own input in the collection and analysis of empirical data.

A description of the contributions is presented. I accept most of them. The text is original, with certain merits.

Impacts of the thesis on the external environment.

It is missing in its entirety for the reason that the material provided has not been published.

Use and citation by other authors, reviews in the scientific press, etc.

There is a description of the author's citations. A total of six (6) citations or reviews in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes are listed. It is noteworthy that 5 of the citations listed are in publications outside the field of the candidate's scientific interests and activity and the topic of the dissertation research submitted for the purposes of this procedure:

- two citations in a 2020 article entitled „Laser Modelling for Photodynamic Therapy“;
- one citation in a 2020 article entitled „Biology of the Cancer Cell“;
- two citations in a 2020 article entitled „Implementation of Internal-Resonance Laser Spectroscopy in the Examination of the Electrophysical Characteristics of Blood Elements“.

The authors of all three cited articles are the same. One (1) citation, in an article relevant to the topic, is also provided. One citation in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes is also provided.

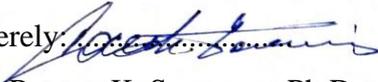
After checking internet-based databases, I found that in Google Scholar, for example, texts by my colleague Plamen Atanasov have a number of references that inexplicably have not been reflected in the documentation provided to us.

Assessment of the relevance of the abstract to the main points and contributions of the thesis.

The abstract correctly reflects the content of the thesis and complies with the formal requirements.

Conclusion.

Dear members of the scientific jury, taking into account the circumstances mentioned so far, I will focus on the presentation and defence during the final session of the scientific jury, and on this basis, I will give my positive assessment of the candidate Plamen Atanasov Atanasov, Ph.D., for the degree of Doctor of Science, in the scientific field 9., professional field 9.1. National Security.

Sincerely: 
Prof. Rossen K. Stoyanov, Ph.D.

November 13, 2023