

THE NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR RISK ASSESSMENT AND SECURITY STUDIES
Sofia, BULGARIA

OPINION CONCERNING THE DISSERTATION

Reviewer: Prof. Georgi Vasilev Bahchevanov, DSc

PhD Candidate: Yael Sne, from Israel,

Theme of the dissertation: “Rational and Emotional Influences on the Degree of Success of Mediation”

1. The theme of the dissertation is relevant. The research examines the degree of impact of the rationality and emotion on the success of the mediation process. The examination of the issue of mediation as a process for the resolution of conflicts is very important, since research studies that address this question from this unique aspect have yet to be conducted.

2. The candidate selected the structure of research, which is appropriate and contributes to achieving the objective.

The goal of the research is to examine the different parameters of the mediation process as an instrument for the prediction of its chances of success, through the process of the analysis of mediation and those involved in it. The purpose is to propose a model to manage the mediation under different conditions and situations of conflict according to the different mediation theories; in other words, how do different variables influence the success or lack of success of the mediation process and whether factors exist that impede or hasten the mediation process.

3. The dissertation has been written and presented for discussion as required. The author has an original thought and a scholarly approach. It is a comprehensive analysis of existing literature. The list of references contains 80 titles. Most sources are from the last 10 years.

4. Conclusions and proposals have been made in accordance with the subject, purpose and set research tasks. In my opinion they are very appropriate. In Bulgaria a comparative research between different theories and their impact on the conflict resolution has not been conducted. A model has not been developed. Thus, this is an innovation in the field of mediation and it may provide an opportunity for looking at different models in the mediation process that should include different processes because of the different topics related to the dispute.

5. The strength of the dissertation is the analysis. The synthesis is weaker.

6. The author has achieved the objective and fulfilled the research tasks. Working hypothesis is confirmed. In the dissertation the researcher examined the rational and emotional influences that exist on the sides in the conflict and the way in which they influence the dispute resolution in mediation. It was found that there is no gap between rationalism and emotion and that every bit of rationalism is accompanied by emotional aspects. The way in which the rationale is expressed is what determines whether the emotion controls the sides or whether the sides control the emotion.

The researcher examined how the different models influence the actions of the sides and how mediation is an option for resolution in the community.

The dissertation complies with the requirements.

Prof. /G. Bahchevanov/, D.Sc.

Sofia, 27.04.2009