

REVIEW

on PhD Thesis of Gergana Ilieva Kuzmova

Entitled: "DECISION-MAKING UNDER NEGATIVE AFFECT AND THE THREAT OF BEING OUT OF A GROUP"

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Morris Greenberg, PhD.

**Reviewer: Prof. Tolya Angelova Stoitsova, PhD., D.Sc. in Social Psychology
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PhD Thesis is structured in four main chapters accompanied by introduction, bibliography and application. The role of conclusion is playing the last – forth chapter. The text of dissertation includes 197 pages.

PhD student's CV is impressive for a young person. Gergana Kuzmova studied in Bulgaria and in The Netherlands and has excellent control of English and Russian language. Also Ms. Kuzmova finished successfully three years program in Humanities in Dutch language.

1. Significance of the investigated problem.

The research problem is topical in theoretical as well as in applied science.

2. Main goals and tasks.

Gergana Kuzmova formulated precisely research questions, followed by specific tasks that correspond to her four experiments. I would classify the research questions except as essential as being particularly complex. For me that shows that Gergana is an ambitious young researcher.

3. Degree of knowledge of the status of the problem and correspondence of the literature used

PhD student Gergana Kuzmova knows perfectly well the contemporary scientific literature concerning the problem of ostracism she is working out, as well as the historical chronology of research in the field. That is shown even by the titles of the dissertation chapters.

4. Correctness in quoting a representative number of authors.

A great number of scientific sources have been cited – 195, as can be assumed, most are in English and one is in German. They cover a wide range of publications: the oldest is from 1928 in German

language, and in English from 1938. Most of the sources are contemporary – from 2000 to 2017. The citations are correct and the most significant authors in the field are covered by their main publications.

5. The existence of a grounded and developed theoretical model of the study.

Adequate theoretical models have been created for all four experiments. In the same way, chronologically following the theoretical models, the aims and hypotheses, the procedure of investigation, and methods and results are clarified.

6. Compliance with the chosen methodology and methodology of the research with the stated purpose and tasks of the dissertation.

Each of the experiments uses an adequate methodology. The text is constructed in the same way for each of the four experiments which makes it much easier to understand the empiricism. The results are well illustrated by being presented in tables and graphs.

7. PhD student's contribution to the collection and analysis of empirical data.

All experiments and applied methods were conducted personally by the doctoral student under the supervision of her scientific supervisor. At that point I would like to congratulate PhD student Gergana Kuzmova and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Morris Greenberg for the wonderful work done in the empirical part of the dissertation.

Contributions

I fully accept the three contributing points formulated by the doctoral student: theoretical, empirical and methodological, and I evaluate them highly.

The contributions are adequate consequences of the theoretical analyzes and the experimental studies.

The 52-page abstract corresponds exactly to the dissertation content. Gergana Kuzmova notes five publications related to the dissertation topic in the period 2014 – 2017, one is under print.

Before concluding, I would like to express my great satisfaction that my notes during the dissertation's approbation were taken into consideration. For me that means PhD student is open to a side scientific perspective and is able to perceive the need for correction or to learn.

I have two questions for Gergana Kuzmova:

1. What is the difference between the term *outsider* in a group and a member of a group threatened by *ostracism*?
2. What are the plans for Gergana's realization in a close future?

Conclusion:

Doctoral student Gergana Ilieva Kuzmova presents a seriously developed theoretical and empirical dissertation with conclusions supported by the results of precisely conducted four experimental studies. I would especially like to point out again the excellent English language and style in which the thesis is written – strictly scientific and at the same time, clear and understandable. The abstract reproduces exactly the content of the dissertation with its contributions. The PhD student has more publications on the subject than the minimum required. For me, without a doubt, the work not only satisfies the high requirements for the degree required, but exceeds them. That is why I suggest to the honorable colleagues of the scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of Gergana Ilieva Kuzmova for her dissertation on "DECISION-MAKING UNDER NEGATIVE AFFECT AND THE THREAT OF BEING OUT OF A GROUP"

11.10.2019

Sofia

Reviewer: :

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