

## **ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER**

**for the THESIS of Associated Professor Ph.D. in philosophy EMILIA VASSIL MARINOVA  
on the "OBJECTIVE STUDY OF MORALITY AND CONTEMPORARY ETHICS" for the  
degree Doctor of Philosophical Sciences (Professional field: 2.3 Philosophy)  
by Assoc. Prof. D. Sc. Tatyana Batuleva - Department "History of philosophical and scientific  
ideas", Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

The thesis presented by Associate Professor Emilia Vassil Marinova on "The objective study of morality and contemporary ethics" consists of an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, notes, and literature; the total length is 258 pages. The dissertation has been discussed and approved for defense at an enlarged session (seminar) of the Department of Ethical Studies of the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at BAS, based on Order ПД-09-465/12.06.2019. [SEP]

The thesis presents a little-discussed topic: the specificity of objective studies in the sphere of morality, and their connection to contemporary ethics; as well as the influence of ethical analysis on the methods with which we study moral phenomena. I would like to point out at the outset that it is significant, multifaceted study focused on a particularly topical issue, namely, the psychology of morality as a highly productive interdisciplinary field, whose contribution is undeniable. It is also related to the aim the author has set out to show that objective study of morality has a place both in applied ethics and development ethics more generally, and in relevant "educational policies and social practices", more specifically.

Here, as in Marinova's previous works, we find her ability to combine academic goals and expertise with their particular perspective as necessary elements of any responsible practical decision. With this inherent balance, the present work also confronts us: balance between these and arguments; balance between quantitative and qualitative parameters in moral studies; balance between professionalism and ethical correctness; between ethical cases and moral dilemmas; between moral autonomy and moral heteronomy. In a situation where systematic attempts are made to downplay the humanities, the author of the proposed work argues for the effectiveness of objective psychological assessment and most often the use of methods (clinical interview, questionnaire, quasi-experiment, case study, etc.) in the study of moral phenomena. This objectivist "bias" does not deprive the study of the specificities of the humanities, but, on the contrary, brings to the fore their authenticity.

Along with purely theoretical contributions, the presented work has other, scientifically applied, no less significant merits. Marinova substantiates the role of ethical expertise in contemporary risk society (here the emphasis is on the heuristic nature of L. Kohlberg's moral dilemmas and ethical cases in contemporary applied and practical ethics); formulates the conclusion for the transformation of objective methods from a means of research and regulation into a means of ethical training; gives her interpretation of the goals and objectives of moral development in objective studies of morality in the

spirit of the concepts of "necessity" and "sufficiency" [1]. Particularly valuable is the orientation towards the situation with children and young people. Both socially and psychologically as well as ethically, Associate Professor Marinova conceptualizes the negative and positive dimensions of the "precautionary principle" in formulating specific educational goals and objectives. The situation of ethical and social risk in the application of research procedures aimed at the study of morality is conceptualized, which is specified in the respondents of childhood and youth.

Not less substantial is the fact that in this interdisciplinary context Marinova reveals the place and contribution of Bulgarian ethical thought, which is why, to the theoretical contributions, on the one hand, and their applied projections, on the other, we must add the authentic, truthfully analyzed and skillfully placed historical accents. Theoretical analyzes are the starting point for understanding the ethical face of Bulgarian "otherness", of specific Bulgarian readings of leading ethical concepts and paradigms.

The thesis presented by Marinova fully meets the requirements necessary for obtaining the degree of Doctor of Science. The fruit of years of effort and dedication, it is a successful blend of theoretical innovation and right timing applicability. The substantial analysis, the lively, logically consistent language and the author's presence make the work not only useful but also a fascinating reading: it captures the position of the scientist and the concern of the intellectual about tomorrow.

The contributions are correctly formulated. The list of cited sources contains 301 titles, of which 210 are in Cyrillic (Bulgarian and Russian script) and 55 are in Latin script. Marinova has presented 11 publications on the dissertation topic, of which 1 is a published monograph, but in reality she has many more publications. Bearing in mind the qualities of Associate Professor Marinova's work, I greatly suggest that the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury award the Associate Professor Marinova the degree of Doctor of Science.

08.09.2019

Associate Professor Tatyana Batuleva, Doctor of Science