

INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIOLOGY - BAS

REVIEW

From: Prof. Dr. Sc. Temenuga Genova Rakadjiiska;
UNWE.

Specialty "Sociology"

Subject: dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Sociology" at IFS-BAS.

Author of the dissertation: Martin Konstantinov Konstantinov

Topic of the dissertation: "The opposition between the West and modern Russia: attitudes in modern Bulgarian society (values and ideologies)"

The reason for presenting the review is participation in the Scientific Jury for the defense of the dissertation, according to order № RD 09-346 / 17.07.2020 of the Director of the Institute of study of societies and knowledge - BAS.

1. Information about the Ph.D. student

I do not know doctoral student Martin Konstantinov personally, but from the presented CVs and dissertations I can conclude that he has a very good scientific culture, shows strict logical thinking in developing research problems that interest him, based on good knowledge of the chosen methodological paradigm. The analysis of the set issues shows both the ability for creativity and conscientiousness in defending the previously formulated hypotheses, as well as punctual accuracy in presenting the results of empirical research. His excellent command of the two mentioned foreign languages allowed him to go into details of the literature studied on the subject and thus to develop his own vision of the theoretical framework used by him.

2. Compliance with the requirements of the normative acts for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" with ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the IFS Regulations

The applicant covers the required minimum of credits. He has submitted a dissertation in an amount exceeding the requirements for such work. The dissertation is his original project. An abstract is also presented, which, although schematically accurately presents the content and scientific achievements of the dissertation. The citations are correct as the source of the citation is indicated everywhere or it becomes clear from the context. The doctoral student has four

independent publications on the topic (mainly related to attitudes towards migration), two of which are in English in scientific journals or values. This is evidence that the author's theses have gained public prominence among the scientific community.

3. General characteristics of the presented dissertation

The first impression from reading the presented dissertation is related to the skill and literacy with which the author approached when writing the material. His research courage deserves admiration for dealing with the extremely complex topic of values (in addition to his attempt to link them to their interaction with ideologies and political attitudes), as well as the courage to seek his own authorial reading of the presented methodological views of established authors. The height of the author's theoretical culture is definitely evident, which has contributed to the in-depth study of the problems posed. The dissertation in electronic version is presented on 237 pages, of which 222 is the main text. (I assume that the discrepancy with the pages indicated in the abstract is due to the absence of the three appendices in the electronic version of the dissertation provided to us.) The cited bibliographic sources are 284, of which 40 in Bulgarian, 228 in English and 16 are Internet sources. The text includes 86 figures and 11 tables. As described in the abstract "the dissertation consists of an introduction, presentation in three chapters, conclusion, list of references and three appendices (already mentioned - in the electronic version they are absent), which contain tables and pie charts with statistical relationships between the studied types parties and political values, as well as between individual political values. "

The exposition has a streamlined and logically justified structure. The explicit goal, thesis, hypotheses and tasks of the study are presented clearly still in the introduction. The author post that "by studying and analyzing the values of the liberalism-conservatism axis and comparing them with the political orientation on the Russia-West axis, an answer is sought to the question of what the two opposing ideological models - Western liberalism, multiculturalism, globalism, universalism and etc. and statism, conservatism, nationalism, traditionalism, defended or promoted by the modern Russian state - attract their supporters in Bulgarian society. (Abstract: 5) The chosen structure for presenting the research done by the doctoral student contributes to the good argumentation of the research goal stated by the author, formulated as: "The main goal of the dissertation is to objectively determine the ideological and political orientation of members of

party structures and to analyze its dependence on their basic individual values. ” (M. Konstantinov, Dissertation: 10).

The main thesis, the proof of which is sought through the research, is related to the fact that according to the author “the ideological and political orientation of the individual is situated within a coordinate system composed of two pairs of bipolar dimensions (Left - Right and Liberalism - Conservatism) related respectively to the economic and social spheres, as the beliefs in the two spheres are often completely independent, therefore the use of a single dimension to describe the political beliefs of the individual is insufficient (M. Konstantinov, Dissertation: 13) In fact, the doctoral student analyzes the process of influence of basic individual values, through the mediation of political values on the political orientation of some party activists.

The content of the first chapter is devoted to the framing of the general theoretical paradigm, through which the author develops his interpretations of the basic concepts that form the basis of his creative pursuits. After clarifying the theoretical framework, in the second chapter of the paper the emphasis is placed on the problems related to the specifics of the social situation in this country in relation to the values and attitudes of Bulgarians (although in my opinion this generalization is problematic, given that not all The data used are from research representative of the country. Personally, I would title this chapter "Values and political orientations living among Bulgarian society in the years of transition"). The obtained results from the analysis and the summary of the empirical information in the third chapter, collected by different methods, and adapted to the specifics of the research, largely confirm the formulated hypotheses.

The conclusion of the dissertation meets the requirements, although it reflects the significant achievements of the doctoral student in a concise and frugal way. In my opinion, it could be significantly expanded and enriched with details, without repeating the content of the exposition in the previous chapters, which would facilitate the perception of the author's achievements not only by the sociological community, but also by the wider scientific community but also from a wider scientific, and not only scientific, audience.

4. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results

The good knowledge, the result of a serious and in-depth study of the scientific background of the researched issues have allowed PhD student Martin Konstantinov to rethink

the specificity of the studied situation, which in turn allows him to make a series of interesting summaries about the tools used in the author's empirical research. , and on the tendencies available in the public space of Bulgaria in the interaction of the prevailing political and individual values. Although the doctoral student emphasizes the interdisciplinarity of the research, the topic of the dissertation is important for the Bulgarian sociological science and its development is a significant contribution - this perspective on the researched problems has not been realized, as far as sociological analyzes on the topic are known to me.

The author's attempt to use the cliché imposed by political speech in recent years in the Bulgarian public space for the opposition between the West and modern Russia as an indicator for studying one or another political orientation I find for a very significant result. (Unfortunately, the point, namely that this is a generalized ideologem of political speech is poorly touched upon in the text – (I would add it in the introduction.) And also I find a serious contribution to the development of the topic on the basis of an adequate and thoroughly developed approach, including an author's "three-step model of ideological orientation of the individual as a function of basic individual values through political values." The detailed and sufficiently thorough presentation of the main existing theories about values and ideologies in the first chapter of the dissertation, which in combination with the additional theoretical explanations in the third chapter, significantly facilitates the perception of the empirical part of the dissertation.

The author is well informed (with small exceptions) about the existing research in our country on the issue and not only presents them correctly, but also tries to compare the results between them and his own research. This is one of the merits of the analysis. However, I must point out that comparative analysis always needs to be approached very carefully in order to comply with the requirements of science for such comparisons - it is difficult to compare data obtained through different tools under different conditions and at different times.

5. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

I believe that for the most part the self-assessment of the contributions of theoretical and theoretical-applied nature, which the doctoral student has made, corresponds to the actual achievements of the author.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

As mentioned above, the abstract, although synthesized, adequately presents the author's theses, presented in the dissertation at a relatively good level.

7. Critical remarks, recommendations, and questions

Of course, as with any intellectual product and toward this presented dissertation, several recommendations and critical remarks can be made without diminishing its merits.

1. My main critical remark is regarding the personalization of the attitude to the model of government in modern Russia with the personality of Russian President Vladimir Putin, because in my opinion, this inevitably affects both the developed tools for conducting field research (which for unfortunately not attached to the dissertation) and the results obtained. Of course, every researcher is faced with the need to abstract to some extent from reality in order to achieve a systematic taxonomic framework that will allow him categorization and summarization of the obtained empirical data. It is not legitimate to oppose, on the one hand, the attitude towards the abstract model of the "West" (without a real practical correlate - some are the specific dimensions of this attitude in Germany, others in the Netherlands, others in Italy and Spain, not to mention the United States, etc. .n.), and on the other hand attitude towards a certain person.
2. I find vary interesting the approach linking the attachment to one or another ideology with the psychological characteristics of their supporters, but in statistical science it is clearly shown that the correlation dependence is an indicator only for the existence of a relationship between two variables and in case they are independent . In the life of society, however, it is difficult to find such. Colleagues have long used far more reliable statistical methods of processing empirically obtained data.
3. Of course, every researcher is faced with the need to abstract to some extent from reality in order to achieve a systematic taxonomic framework that will allow categorization and summarization of the obtained empirical data. But in this case, the author did not take into account that the model of interpretation of the "generalized ideological categories" imposed in the public space since the Cold War (Abstract: 24) is not adequate in the age of information technology. With the global modification of

individual values in the direction of the values of consumerism and the changing social structures of societies in the period of metamorphoses (Ulrich Beck) from "proletariat" to "precariat" (Guy Standing), this taxonomic model loses some of its relevance to reality.

4. I have other more specific disagreements with the doctoral student's interpretations, such as that the attitude towards abortion can be sought on the axis Eastern - Western Europe, and not in my opinion on the more adequate axis Catholicism - Orthodoxy, with the mediating link of Protestantism; as well as the interpretation of the value of "achievement" (to succeed in life) and the value of "people to evaluate your achievements" as equivalent (synonymous), because the former refers to the self-esteem of the individual, while the second concerns the assessment given to it by the environment; I also believe that party formations that are publicly promoted as 'patriotic' should theoretically be interpreted as 'nationalist'. I have some other similar disagreements, but I repeat, they do not belittle the achievements of the doctoral student.

8. Conclusion

The dissertation proposed by doctoral student Martin Konstantinov Konstantinov gives me reason to maintain that he is well acquainted with the theoretical field of the subject of his research. In the field of his research interest he command both the methods for collecting empirical information and those for its processing and interpretation. Having in mind all the above indicated and the fact that PhD student Martin Konstantinov meets the procedural requirements set out in the Law on the Award of the Doctor of Sociology, I declare that I will vote for the award of the educational and scientific degree " Doctor of Sociology ” code 05.11.01. of doctoral student Martin Konstantinov for his dissertation "The Opposition between the West and Modern Russia: Attitudes in Contemporary Bulgarian Society (Values and Ideologies)".

September 1, 2020

Signature:

Sofia

Prof. Dr. Sc. Temenuga Rakadjiiska