

Diana Mishkova

Director

April 2019

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA**  
**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **I.1. Personnel**

#### ***I.1.1. Academic personnel and Academic Advisory Council***

As of April 2018, the academic personnel of CAS include its Director, Diana Mishkova (History), one Permanent Fellow, Roumen Avramov (Economic History; Economy), and two Academic Associates: Assoc. Prof. Daniel Smilov (Law & Political Science) and Assoc. Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (History). At its upcoming meeting in May 2019, the CAS Board will welcome three new members: Prof. Stefan Troebst (East European Cultural History, Leipzig University), Prof. Angel Kalaidzhiev (Faculty of Law, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"), and Mr. Alexander Kashumov (Foundation *Access to Information Programme*).

Presently, the Academic Advisory Council includes Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer (History, Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg), Prof. Raymond Detrez (Slavonic and East European Studies, Ghent University), Prof. Petya Kabakchieva (Sociology, Sofia University), Prof. János Kovács (Economic History, IWM, Vienna, and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), Prof. Attila Melegh (History, Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University, Budapest), Prof. Carmen Scheide (Cultural Studies, University of Bern) and Prof. Galin Tihanov (George Steiner Chair of Comparative Literature, Queen Mary, University of London).

#### ***I.1.2. Administrative personnel***

A new member of the CAS administrative team, Mrs. Milena Varzonovtseva (University of British Columbia; Library and Information Studies) was employed to replace for Ms. Sylvia Stancheva, who had moved to a full-time position at Sofia University. Like her predecessor, Mrs. Varzonovtseva is employed on a half-time basis, starting in September, 2018. No other changes in the administrative staff have been introduced since the last Board meeting.

### **I.2. Financial analysis**

#### ***I.2.1. Institutional funding***

In 2018, the institutional funding of CAS was secured from three main sources: *Swiss Government annual grant* of **CHF 100 000,00 (€ 83 319,74)**; institutional support from America for Bulgaria Foundation of **€ 10 226, 00** (as part of the Advanced Academia grant); project overheads at the total amount of **€ 7 622,25** (see **AR ANNEX I** for *CAS Financial Report 2018*.)

#### ***I.2.2. Expenditures 2018, Financial Report***

Overall expenditures (project-related and institutional) for 2018 amount to € 271 534,82, of which € 111 740,00 institutional expenses (personnel, running costs, up-keeping costs, Academic Council meetings, external services, equipment, etc.).

The project-related costs amount to € 159 794,82, of which € 125 634,02 for fellowships, and the remaining amount of € 34 160,80 for workshops, publications and other project-related activities (see **AR ANNEX I** for *CAS Financial Report 2018*)

### ***1.2.3. Annual Financial Statements (approved by certified auditor)***

Enclosed to this Report (**AR ANNEX II**) is the translated version of the Annual Financial Statements, including CAS Auditor's Report.

### **I.3. Fundraising and Sustainability**

The Swiss Government grant amounting to **100 000, 00 CHF** per annum has been contracted until the end of 2020. The Bulgarian-Swiss Memorandum of Understanding (see under **I.4.** below) envisages continuation of this grant till 2024.

The grant, provided by the America for Bulgaria Foundation includes institutional annual support for CAS of € **20 452, 00**, and is contracted for the period 2016-2019.

### **I.4. Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum of Understanding for continued institutional support and a new fellowship programme for young Bulgarian scholars**

Following the decisions taken at the previous Board meeting and the demarche made by the Swiss Secretary for Education and Research, Mr. Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, to his Bulgarian counterpart in the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), CAS Director held a series of meetings with officials at different levels in the Ministry. As a result, on 8 November 2018 the MES and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SERI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, upon a previous endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria (15 October 2018). In its motives on behalf of the Memorandum, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers formally acknowledged CAS as *“the only non-governmental organization in the country with proven, internationally recognized capacity and longstanding successful practice in the management of fellowship programmes for young scholars from Bulgaria and abroad.”*

The Memorandum (i) ensures Bulgarian state support at the amount of **BGN 598 483, 00 (€ 306 000, 00)** for a five-year “Programme for fellowships and academic mobility of young Bulgarian scholars and support for research diaspora activities in the humanities and social sciences,” to be implemented by CAS between October 2019 and June 2024; (ii) stipulates continuation of the Swiss government institutional support for CAS at the amount of **CHF 500 000, 00 (€ 446 820, 00)** for five years (2019–2024), to be provided by SERI.

MES' funding provides for:

A) 5 nine-month scholarships per year for Bulgarian scholars (including one month in a foreign institution);

B) 2 three-month scholarships per year for representatives of the academic diaspora;

- or a total of 25 local and 10 diaspora Bulgarian scholars over five years.

CAS takes on administrating the programme in full compliance with its requirements for independent decision-making with respect to the selection of Fellows and research topics and for intellectual freedom.

CAS Director would like to personally thank Mr. Benedikt Hauser from SERI for his subtly navigating the negotiation process, shrewd advice and selfless commitment.

### **I.5. Partnerships and cooperation**

CAS has maintained traditional cooperation with its partners in the country and a number of IASs abroad, most notably *NEC*, *IWM*, and *CEU-IAS* as well as the *Imre Kertesz Kolleg* in Jena, the *Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung* in Regensburg, and the *Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des Östlichen Europa* in Leipzig. Upholding close, almost day-by-day working relations with the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* on both personal and official level has become habitual and continues to prove indispensable in securing project-related and institutional support for CAS.

On 4 April 2019 the newly elected Rector of the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, Prof. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, visited CAS and became acquainted with the Centre, its staff, activities and role in the national and regional context. The CAS team is looking hopefully forward to continuing its close collaboration with the *Wiko* leadership and with the successors to our most dedicated and proficient teammate there, Dr. Katharina Biegger.

In 2018 the Centre entered the last year of its ten-year productive cooperation with the *America for Bulgaria Foundation*. The latter's support was essential in laying the grounds of the independent fellowship programme, on which the newly signed Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum for Understanding could step and which played a major role in asserting CAS as the major independent Bulgarian institution supporting post-doctoral research in the social and human sciences.

### **I.6. Talks with representatives of the German and Swiss Embassies in Sofia**

In March and April 2019 CAS was in the focus of several high-profile initiatives by the German and the Swiss embassies in Sofia, and by a new potential donor from Switzerland.

1/ On 27 March 2019, D. Mishkova and R. Avramov met with representatives of the German Embassy in Sofia. Upon an invitation from the CAS Director, Mr. York Schuegraf (Deputy Head of Mission) and Mr. Sebastian Kleve (Head of Culture- and Press Office) paid a visit to CAS and became acquainted with its work and staff. The two diplomats expressed their satisfaction with what they learned and committed themselves to probing the chances for securing the German Foreign Ministry's support for a CAS fellowship programme targeted at young scholars from the Western Balkans.

2/ On 28 March 2019, the Swiss Ambassador to Sofia, Mrs. Muriel Berset Kohen, visited the Centre on her own initiative. At the focus of the discussion, next to introducing her to the Centre's activities, were the prospects for CAS serving as a hub for a research project on migration, its impact and attitudes to migrants on a regional scale. Pending the adoption by the upper chamber of the Swiss parliament of a new funding programme aimed at EU13, Mrs Kohen will enquire about the conditions for including and supporting such a project under this programme.

3/ On 8 and 9 April 2019, Mr Thomas Abegg and Mr. Alessandro Marciello (*Thomas Abegg Stiftung für Geist und Kultur*, Switzerland) and Prof. Oliver Jens Schmitt (Institute for East European History, Austrian Academy of Sciences) paid a two-day visit to CAS. They were introduced to the current research projects of the Centre, its national in international collaborations, and its electronic networking resources by D. Mishkova and R. Avramov. The guests also met with several CAS associates – Georgy Ganev, Daniel Smilov and Valery Dimitrov – as well as current and former Junior and Senior CAS Fellows. At the end of his visit Mr Abegg announced his decision to allocate **CHF 50 000,00** by way of institutional support for CAS during the next three years.

## **II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

### **II.1. CAS Fellows**

In the course of 2018/2019 CAS hosted 16 Fellows from 7 countries in the framework of the Advanced Academia programme, and another 6 scholars participating in the *Teaching Europe Project* (see **AR ANNEX III** for a complete list of 2018/2019 CAS Fellows and their topics).

### **II. 2. On-going projects**

#### ***II.2.1. Advanced Academia Programme and Gerda Henkel Independent Fellowships***

Since the beginning of the Advanced Academia programme in 2009, with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, CAS has granted fellowships to **74** young and established Bulgarian scholars. With the assistance of the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus Foundation)*, since 2011, and of the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation*, since 2013, the programme has opened to international Fellows. A total of **51** foreign Fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled between 2011 and 2018. Since 2018 the *Gerda Henkel Foundation* has contributed to the group of CAS Fellows with another two 5-month independent fellowships per year targeting outstanding young researchers from the former Soviet Republics.

*The selection of Fellows*, carried out by the CAS Academic Advisory Council, is based on two major criteria: 1) scholarly excellence of the candidate and, 2) quality of the research proposal (especially: originality; innovative contribution; interdisciplinary and/or comparative approach), while pursuing optimal Fellows group's dynamics in terms of composition.

*The Calls for Applications for 2019/2020* (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically in February 2018 (with a deadline 31 June 2018). The calls yielded a total of 47 Bulgarian applications and 105 foreign applications from over 30 countries in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

As of 2017, interviewing the short-listed applicants became an essential element of the selection process. The CAS Academic Council held its regular session in Sofia on 5 October 2018, while the short-listed candidates (a total of 29, of whom 18 foreign and 11 Bulgarian applicants) were interviewed by two council members, Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer and Prof. Raymond Detrez, the CAS Director, and the CAS Permanent Fellow, on 16 November 2018.

Five Bulgarian and seven international Fellows (including two Gerda Henkel Fellows from Ukraine and Moldova, respectively) were selected. The academic year with the new cohort of CAS Fellows

opened on 6 March 2019 (see **AR ANNEX IV** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects).

*Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series:* In March 2019 CAS opened the ninth season of the series, which presents the research results of the 2018/2019 Bulgarian Fellows to a wider academic and interested audience. (For more details, see below under **II.6. Public Events**; for the *Calendar of the 2019 Public Lectures* see **AR ANNEX V**)

The research results of the Bulgarian and international Fellows from the 2017/2018 group were published in electronic form in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) as *CAS Working Paper Series*.

*Change of deadline for applications:* The continuation of the *Advanced Academia* programme through the grant from the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, starting in October 2019, imposes changes in the erstwhile schedule. From now on the Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) will be published and distributed electronically in November (with a deadline 31 March the year after). Respectively, the annual CAS Academic Advisory Council's meetings and the interviews will take place in July, and selection results publicised by the end of the month. The academic year will thus follow the conventional frame, beginning on 1 October and closing on 31 July.

*Other related activities:* The Centre continues to seek ways to offset the absence of common working space for and more consistent communication between its Fellows by organizing various social and cultural events, such as – next to the common dinners following the Fellow Seminar – outings to historical places in and outside of Sofia, screening of feature and documentary films in the CAS conference room, book presentations, Bulgarian language courses for the foreign Fellows, etc.

### ***II.2.2. Pforzheimer Fellowship Programme, 2019–2022***

Whereas the grant from the MES ensured the prolongation of the Bulgarian part of the *Advanced Academia* programme for junior scholars, it envisages no provisions for senior Bulgarian scholars. The continuation of the *Advanced Academia* fellowships for senior Bulgarian scholars became possible due to a generous donation by the American philanthropist and bibliophile Carl H. Pforzheimer III, a former member (now Co-chairman Emeritus) of the Board of Directors of America for Bulgaria Foundation and a staunch supporter of our Centre. The follow-up programme, which has been named after him, provides for three 5-month scholarships per year to outstanding senior Bulgarian researchers and university professors. For the time being its duration is set at three years (2019-2022).

### ***II.2.3. A Landys & Gyr Fellowship for Artists***

This annual five-month fellowship, funded by the *Landis & Gyr Foundation* (Zug, Switzerland), was originally contracted for the period of 2017–2019. Against the backdrop of its successful development, we expect a prolongation by another two years. The programme targets creative professionals from various artistic fields – writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, actors, film directors, architects, etc. The fellowship aims at encouraging a deeper interaction between theoretical research and the arts, and to stimulate and promote the creative work of the artist. In 2018 the fellowship under this programme went to Dr. Krassimir Terziev, an independent Bulgarian visual artist.

As part of the *Landis & Gyr Foundation* international residency programme for artists and writers, the contracted grant contains an additional provision allowing Swiss artists to visit Sofia and work within the CAS community. On this basis, from April through July 2018, CAS hosted the Swiss-born artist, Mr Thomas Kneubühler, a photographer and visual artist living and working in Canada since 2000, who presented his past and current projects. In his work, Mr Kneubühler uses photography, video and installation to examine complex socio-political issues and the limits of representation. His talk to the CAS audience was devoted to “The Artist as a Researcher”.

#### ***II.2.4. Does Monastic Economy Matter? Religious Patterns of Economic Behaviour***

In October 2016 the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe (CGCE) at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the University of St. Gallen and the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia established a research NETWORK devoted to the history of the monastic economy in South-Eastern and Western Europe. It is coordinated by CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov.

During its two years of existence, the NETWORK strived to enhance communication, assist mobility and thus foster the intellectual debate in the field. The two workshops hosted by CAS in November 2017 and November 2018 listed 39 presentations by 28 researchers from Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, France, Romania, Serbia, and UK. The two workshops were accompanied by guest-lectures addressed to a wider audience and delivered, respectively, by Prof. Victor Roudometof (University of Cyprus, Nicosia) who talked on *The Transformations of Orthodox Christianity in the Longue-Durée: A Sociological Analysis*, and Prof. Elias Kolovos (University of Crete) who lectured on *Monasteries, Economy, and Politics from Medieval to Modern Times*. The NETWORK provides research allowances to support studies on the history of the monastic economy. By April 2019 nine projects (from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, and Serbia) have received funding. Another call for applications is now open till the end of June 2019 along with an invitation to scholars interested to participate in the last workshop of the Network, scheduled for October 2019.

Preparation has started for the publication of a co-edited volume based on contributions to the NETWORK.

#### ***II.2.5. How to Teach Europe in the 21st Century***

The programme (2017–2019), which is supported by Porticus and the Robert Bosch Foundation, targets outstanding (mostly junior) researchers from the humanities and social sciences from across Eastern Europe with the aim to develop expertise in the transfer of knowledge and teaching. It seeks to expand the productive academic networks of CAS and NEC, and also benefit scholarship and university education in the larger region of Eastern Europe, by providing an incentive for excellent young academics to integrate and translate their research findings into innovative teaching designs.

Last year the programme continued with the third workshop that took place on 13-14 April 2018 in Sofia, and another meeting convened in Bucharest in mid-October. The Sofia workshop featured three keynote speakers who are experts in the field of digitalisation and communication of science: Dr. Roland S. Kamzelak (German Literature Archive Marbach), who spoke on “Text Goes Digital and Dissolves ... to Reappear?”, and Prof. Ulrich Schmid and Dr. Anna Chebotarova (University of St. Gallen), who dealt with “Visualisation of Research Data and Science Communication”. This

workshop provided the TE Fellows with the opportunity to present their work-in-progress and discuss their concrete plans in view of the expected project outcomes.

The fourth workshop was hosted by NEC on 12-13 October. The invited guests, Prof. Brigit Eriksson-Hotz (Pedagogical University, Zug) and Prof. Peter Gautschi (Pedagogical University, Luzern) commented on the TE Fellows' work and made valuable didactic recommendations. Prof. Liviu Matei (Provost and Pro-Rector, CEU Budapest) gave a talk on "Teaching Europe vs Building Europe".

The next workshop took place on 5-6 April 2019 in Sofia, where the TE Fellows presented the most recent progress of their research. The specific focus of the seminar was teaching performance (the fellow group acting as a student audience) and the presentation of syllabi. The invited keynote speakers were Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva (Sofia University) and Prof. Balazs Trenszenyi (Central European University in Budapest) who shared their innovative approaches to researching and teaching European memory and entangled European intellectual thought.

### **II.3. Applications submitted**

#### ***II.3.1. For extension of the international module of the Advanced Academia programme***

##### *II.3.1.1. To Porticus Foundation*

Between 2011 and 2018, the Advanced Academia foreign (international) module was supported by the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft* (Porticus) and the *Fritz Thyssen Foundation*. During this period, it provided fellowships for 51 foreign researchers. As the Fritz Thyssen Foundation grant expires in 2019, CAS has been probing opportunities to prolong the support by the Porticus Foundation for the international fellowships. Accordingly, in 2018 CAS filed an application with the Porticus Foundation, seeking its support for 4 two- to five-month fellowships for non-Bulgarian Fellows per year during the next 3 years (2019-2022). This will allow the continued internationalization of the programme by bringing excellent foreign researchers to Bulgaria, now that grants for junior and senior Bulgarian scholars have been secured. The calculated budget plan submitted to the Porticus Foundation is 87, 120 Euro, and decision is pending by the end of April 2019.

##### *II.3.1.2. To Gerda Henkel Stiftung*

The Gerda-Henkel Fellowships, launched in 2015, have so far been restricted to applicants from the countries of the former Soviet Union, Mongolia and some provinces of China (Tibet and Xinjiang). Based on a favourable assessment of the results of the Programme, a new application, requesting the doubling of Fellows (from 2 to 4 per year) and an extension of the geographical scope by including the Caucasus region and Turkey, has recently been submitted to the Gerda Henkel Foundation. This application on behalf of both CAS and NEC owes everything to Kathrin Biegger's initiative, resourcefulness and determination. Decision is expected in April 2019.

The pursued outcome of the two applications – to Porticus and Gerda Henkel – is to achieve equitable representation in the programme of Bulgarian and non-Bulgarian Fellows and thus sustain its truly international profile.

### **II.3.2 “Lost in Transition: Social Sciences, Scenarios of Transformation, and Cognitive Dissonances in East Central Europe after 1989”**

The project proposal, submitted for funding to the Porticus Foundation, seeks to place the current anti-liberal and anti-democratic backlash in Eastern Europe, arguably manifesting the all-European socio-political and ideological crisis in its most acute form, into a comparative historical perspective. It raises fundamental questions concerning the intellectual contribution and responsibility of those local and international actors (scholars, experts, think-tanks, NGOs, public intellectuals, etc.) who devised roadmaps for the transition to liberal democracy and market economy, and the interplay of these roadmaps and the realities “on the ground”. Drawing on the rather divergent experiences of three Central European (Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland) and three Southeast European (Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia) countries, it aims at unravelling the various scenarios of post-socialist transition projected by local and external social scientists and experts and how these scenarios themselves became actors in the very process of transformation.

The project will be implemented between 1 November 2019 and 31 October 2022, and envisages the following activities: regular workshops, individual and team research work, international conferences, preparing research results for publication, other forms of dissemination reaching broader public and higher education institutions (web-based and media platforms), curriculum development on contemporary history of the region.

The direct beneficiary group is a cohort of young social scientists (10 doctoral and post-doctoral students) from six countries in East Central Europe, who will be brought together to develop, under the supervision of a group of six established scholars, the analytical instruments to interrogate critically the capacities of their disciplines to meet the challenges of our future. The indirect beneficiaries are a number of interest groups – academics, public intellectuals, NGOs, participants in public debates and politicians – who possess the authority and resources to bring their knowledge to bear on societal decision-making and raise public awareness on major critical issues of our time.

The calculated budget plan of the project application for three years is 261 360 euro. Decision on the funding of the first year and a half of the project is expected by the end of April.

## **II.4. Other Academic Activities**

### **II.4.1. CAS Re-link Workshops**

The CAS re-link workshops continue the tradition to host seminars convened by former CAS Fellows, who had spent considerable time abroad, offering them the opportunity to present their new research and re-link with the current intellectual life of the Centre. On 14 November of 2018, former Fellow Dr. Elitza Stanoeva – a research associate at the European University Institute in Florence (2017-2018) and team member in an ERC-funded project “*Looking West: The European Socialist Regimes Facing Pan-European Cooperation and the European Community*”, convened an international workshop on the topic “*Bulgaria’s Imperative of Opening to the West*” in the 1960s and 1970s.”

### **II.4.2. The “Revival Process” in Bulgaria (1984-1989): Looking Back**

Thirty years ago, in May-August 1989, the Bulgarian communist regime launched an ethnic cleansing campaign of unprecedented scale which constituted the epilogue, and led to the collapse

of, the “Revival Process” – a set of brutal assimilation policies against the country’s Turkish minority, which was initiated in 1984. With the intension to put them in perspective and commemorate those events, on 18 January 2019 CAS organized a Round-Table dedicated to this fault line in the recent Bulgarian history. Convened by Roumen Avramov, the Round-Table featured 14 scholars from Bulgaria, UK, Germany, and Turkey as well as an engaged audience. CAS plans to publish the proceedings of the insightful debate that took place.

## **II.5. CAS Discussion Series**

### ***II.5.1. Policies of the Rule of Law***

CAS Discussion Series “Policies of the Rule of Law” explores the principles of the rule of law from the perspective of various fields of study – law, political science, history and psychology. These are discussed from the point of view of constitutional theory and recent developments taking place in Europe. Within the framework of this series CAS organized four seminars in 2018 and early 2019 involving prominent Bulgarian and foreign speakers: Dr. Atanas Slavov (Sofia University): *“Paradoxes of citizen participation”*; Prof. Ekaterina Mihaylova (New Bulgarian University): *“The rule of law and Bulgarian constitutional politics”*; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mykola Riabchuk (Institute of Political and Nationalities Studies, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences): *“Playing with the rules: Democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine”*; Assoc. Prof. Martin Belov (Sofia University): *“Challenges to the rule of law and democracy engendered by globalisation”*.

## **II.6. International publications resulting from CAS projects and discussion series**

***II.6.1. “A History of Modern Political Thought in East Central Europe”*** (eds. Balázs Trencsényi, Maciej Janowski, Monika Baar, Maria Falina, and Michal Kopecek) ***Vol I: Negotiating Modernity in the ‘Long Nineteenth Century’*** (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016); ***Vol II: Negotiating Modernity in the ‘Short Twentieth Century’ and Beyond; Part I: 1918-1968, Part II: 1968-2018*** (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

These two-volume (and three-part) publication is the final product of the research carried out under the ERC project *Negotiating Modernity* project hosted by CAS between 2008 and 2013. It maps the history of East-Central European political thought from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first century. Paying attention to both the intra- and extra-regional interferences, and breaking the duality of Western "core" and Eastern "periphery", it contributes to the emergence of a truly European perspective of intellectual history. The authors address questions about the key components of European political thought, formulated on the basis of a regional and trans-regional comparative analysis.

The first volume was published in 2016, and the second volume (Part I and Part II) in 2018 by Oxford University Press. The book launch took place at the Central European University in February 2018 in front of a big audience of students, professors and public intellectuals.

### **II.6.2. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series**

The public lectures are an important element of the Advanced Academia programme as they contribute significantly to enhancing the outreach of the Centre and its Fellows’ research work. The series provides a valuable forum, especially for younger scholars, by promoting the visibility of their work and contributing to their career growth.

The ninth consecutive series of the Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series started on 13 March 2019 and is being held on a weekly basis (every Wednesday, from 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through May. These events have gained much popularity and attention by scholars from various universities, academy institutes and other scientific organizations in the capital. (For the 2018 programme of the lecture series, see **AR ANNEX V**).

## **II.7. CAS Library**

### ***II.7.1. Development of book collections***

CAS Library has continued to follow consistent collection development policies. They are efficient and financially sound, using both locally held information resources as well as resources from other organizations. New acquisitions are made in several ways: donations, purchase and exchange. The donations typically come from current CAS Fellows, CAS alumni and associates. During 2018 the Library has enriched its collection with 65 new books on various topics in the sphere of the humanities and social sciences.

### ***II.7.2. Library services***

#### **✓ Cooperation with Panitza Library of AUBG**

CAS Library's cooperation with the American University in Bulgaria has proven especially valuable in that it guarantees distant access to the various electronic collections of their Panitza Library. The comprehensive research databases (including JSTOR, EBSCO, Oxford Reference Online) provide CAS researchers with easy access to a wealth of full-text, science-oriented content. CAS Fellows could also use books, book chapters and request copies of journal articles, conference papers, etc. via the interlibrary loan service in cooperation with AUBG. Both libraries use this opportunity for book exchange to assist the information needs of their users.

#### **✓ Availability of CAS catalogue online through NALIS**

CAS Library electronic catalogue of books is made available through the NALIS Union Catalogue (national catalogue of the academic libraries in Bulgaria) which has increased the visibility of the Centre's collections and publications. NALIS is regularly updated with CAS bibliographic records for achieving a full visibility of CAS library's collection.

#### **✓ Electronic Document Delivery Service**

The CAS library electronic document delivery service assists the distant library users with receiving articles from periodicals and book page ranges in PDF format via email. The librarian performs search in the available databases and sends the articles to the users, thus saving them a visit to the premises of the Library. During the year 2018 more than 20 articles were sent to the users.

## **III. VISIBILITY, NETWORKING, DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS**

A book launch of the collective volume *“European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History”* (eds. Diana Mishkova and Balazs Trencsenyi; Berghahn Books, 2017), took place on 15 May 2018 at the Vienna Institute for Advanced Study (IWM). The event, which was moderated by

IWM Permanent Fellow Ivan Krastev and involved an extensive commentary by Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer, summoned a large international audience of scholars, journalists and policy-makers.

The *CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences* ([www.gate.cas.bg](http://www.gate.cas.bg)) offers the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the eight-year existence of the Gateway, Dimiter Dimov, its CAS coordinator, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are 528 registered users from academia. The annual number of unique visits averages 12,000 and more than 35,000 pages are viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

***Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings*** ([www.red.cas.bg](http://www.red.cas.bg)) In addition to the access offered through this site to the catalogue of scholars, projects and institutions dealing with critical reading of communist history, CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the communist legacies and on their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography classified according to different topics and genres (1,056 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The web-page is regularly fed in with news. The average monthly number of visits amounts to 250, while 1124 pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

***CAS Working Paper Series***, which is released in the Central European Online Library, ensures international visibility for the research carried out at CAS.

Next to its electronic channels, CAS keeps insisting on the dissemination of ***printed publications***, particularly of the research resulting from collective projects. To this end the Centre continues to rely on the additional financial resources made available through the *Advanced Academia project* budget for 2016/2019, which includes a subvention for pre-publication production process (language editing and printing).

Following the Board's decision, as of 2019 the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia disseminates its ***newsletter*** mainly electronically and a limited number of copies in printed form. Electronic version of the newsletter in PDF format is also accessible on CAS webpage. The new issue for 2018/2019 appeared in the beginning of 2019.

Another medium of disseminating information on the Centre's events (public lectures, guest lectures, book launches, etc.) is the ***CAS webpage on Facebook***. CAS has already been using this social platform for the last six years and enjoys attention by former Fellows, both Bulgarian and foreign, and other scholars and students across the country. Currently CAS has around 310 friends and followers on Facebook.

The already mentioned ***Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series*** is another valuable social tool for publicising and advertising the intellectual output of CAS. In the recent years this series has become very popular, attracting many attendees from the Sofia academia and evoking a lively response from the audience.

CAS Sofia,  
April 2019