

Diana Mishkova

Director

April 2020

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Personnel

I.1.1. Academic personnel and Academic Advisory Council

At its meeting in May 2019, the CAS Board elected Prof. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger (Rector of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin) as Chair of the CAS Board of Trustees. Welcoming wholeheartedly this decision as another sign of the close partnership and trust that have marked the relations between Wiko and CAS over the last twenty years, the CAS director and staff eagerly look forward to working together with Prof. Stollberg-Rilinger in support of the IAS cause in Bulgaria, the region and beyond.

As of April 2020, 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).

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 (History of Economic Ideas, Vienna University, and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), Prof. Attila Melegh (Demography, 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

No changes in the administrative staff have been introduced since the last Board meeting.

I.2. Financial analysis

I.2.1. Institutional funding and CAS Platform for Networking Activities

In 2019, the institutional funding of CAS was secured primarily by the Swiss Government annual grant of **CHF 100 000,00 (€ 85 614,00)**.

The Thomas Abegg Stiftung für Geist und Kultur, Switzerland, provides support for the *CAS Platform for Networking Activities* at the amount of **CHF 16 667,00 (€ 14 269,00)** per year over three years (2019-2022). The *Platform* serves to sustain CAS's network and public outreach by supporting CAS regular alumni gatherings, Discussion Series, Public Lectures, Newsletter, conferences and round-table discussions, workshops on the initiatives of CAS fellows, and the annual Guest Lecture Series.

See **AR ANNEX I** for CAS Financial Report 2019.

I.2.2. Expenditures 2019, Financial Report

Overall expenditures (project-related and institutional) for 2019 amount to **€ 320 016,00**, of which **€ 101 522,00** institutional expenses (personnel, running costs, up-keeping costs, Academic Council meetings, external services, equipment, etc.).

The expenditures for the *CAS Platform*, funded by the Thomas Abegg Stiftung, amount to **€ 11 080,00**. The project-related costs are **€ 207 414,00**, of which **€ 164 685,00** for fellowships and **€ 42 729,00** for workshops, publications and other project-related activities. (See **AR ANNEX I** for CAS Financial Report 2019.)

I.3. Fundraising and Sustainability

The Swiss Government grant of **100 000,00 CHF** per annum has been originally contracted until the end of 2020, and subsequently prolonged through the enforcement of the Bulgarian-Swiss Memorandum of Understanding until 2024. Furthermore, an agreement between the Thomas Abegg Stiftung für Geist und Kultur and CAS envisages a contribution of **CHF 50 000,00** to support *CAS Platform for Networking Activities* over a period of three years (2019-2022).

I.4. Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum of Understanding

CAS continues the implementation the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on 8 November 2018 by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SERI) and the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Sciences (MES). The Memorandum envisages continuation of the Swiss institutional support for CAS and a new fellowship program for young Bulgarian scholars. It involves (i) Bulgarian state support of **BGN 598 483, 00 (€ 306 000, 00)** for a five-year “Program 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) 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), provided by SERI.

I.5. Partnerships and cooperation

CAS has continued its traditional cooperation with partners in the country (major universities, academic institutes, cultural media, etc.) and a number of IASs abroad, most notably the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, *NEC*, *IWM*, and *CEU-IAS* as well as the *Leibniz-*

Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung in Regensburg, and the *Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des Östlichen Europa* in Leipzig, and the Imre Kertesz Kolleg in Jena.

The Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum for Understanding continues to play an important role in asserting CAS as the main independent institution supporting post-doctoral research in the social and human sciences in Bulgaria.

Following a visit by Thomas Abegg, in April 2019, his *Stiftung für Geist und Kultur*, Switzerland, and CAS signed an agreement for a donation “explicitly earmarked for the research programs and projects of the beneficiary (various network platforms)”.

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2019/2020 CAS hosted 25 Fellows from 11 countries in the framework of the Advanced Academia platform, and another 6 scholars participating in the Teaching Europe Project (for the full list of fellows see **AR ANNEX II** and **AR ANNEX III**).

II. 2. On-going projects

Advanced Academia Platform

This platform, which brings together all CAS individual-fellowship programs, grants possibilities for conducting independent social-science and humanities research in an international, multidisciplinary environment, without restrictions in the selected areas of study – an approach intended to stimulate excellent scholarship at the highest international level.

II. 2.1. *Independent Fellowship program for Bulgarian Junior Scholars and Bulgarian Academic Diaspora (2019-2024)* is financed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and provides support for young Bulgarian scientists as well as researchers from the Bulgarian academic diaspora. It envisages: a) 5 nine-month scholarships per year for young Bulgarian scholars (including one month in a foreign institution); b) 2 three-month scholarships per year for representatives of the Bulgarian academic diaspora working in foreign academic institutions. Under this program the CAS Academic Council has selected 4 Junior scholars and 2 scholars working in foreign academic institutions in USA and Canada.

II. 2.2. *Pforzheimer Fellowship Program (2019–2022)*, supported by a donation of the American philanthropist and bibliophile Carl H. Pforzheimer III (Co-chairman Emeritus of America for Bulgaria Foundation and ardent supporter of CAS), provides for three 5-month scholarships per year to outstanding Bulgarian researchers and university professors. This grant ensures the prolongation of the Bulgarian part of the Advanced Academia program in its full scope, since the grant from MES does not provide support for senior Bulgarian

scholars. Under this program the CAS Academic Council selected 2 Bulgarian senior scholars.

II. 2.3. *Independent Fellowships for International Scholars (2011-2019)* are granted to outstanding non-Bulgarian scholars (senior and junior) to pursue their individual research projects in residence in Sofia. The program is supported by the Porticus Foundation. Under this program CAS selected 5 international scholars (1 senior and 4 junior). (For the prolongation of this program to 2020-2023, see the **Activity Plan**.)

II. 2.4. *Gerda-Henkel Fellowship program (2016-2022)* was *originally* aimed at humanities and social science scholars from the countries of the former Soviet Union. Based on a favourable assessment of the results of the Program, the duration of the program was prolonged till 2022 and the number of Fellows doubled (from 2 to 4 per year), whereas its geographical scope was extended to include the Caucasus region and Turkey. Under this program the CAS Academic Council selected 4 scholars (from Russia, Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey). One of the fellowships had to be cancelled, however, since the selected scholar from Ukraine was not granted sabbatical from his home institution.

II. 2.5. *Landis and Gyr Artistic Fellowships (2017-2020)*: this program is aimed at stimulating and promoting the creative work of artists from various fields – writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, actors, film directors, architects, etc. by integrating them in a community of humanities and social-science scholars and spurring interaction between theoretical research and the arts. The fellowship program has been provided for by the Landis & Gyr Foundation (Switzerland). Originally contracted for the period of 2017–2019, following its successful development this annual five-month fellowship was prolonged by another two years. Under this program the CAS Academic Council awarded one fellowship to a Bulgarian scholar working in the area of theatre studies and dance history at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts, Sofia.

As part of the Landis & Gyr Foundation international residency program for artists and writers, the contracted grant contains a provision allowing Swiss artists to visit Sofia and work within the CAS community. On this basis, from March through July 2020, CAS has enrolled Ms. Kathrin Borer – an independent visual artist, and the artistic couple - Mr. Alexander Tuchaczek and Mrs. Anke Hoffmann. Mr. Borer started her residency at the beginning of March but due to the COVID-19 outbreak and a decision taken by the Landis & Gyr Foundation she left Sofia with the intention to renew her artistic visit in the autumn or next spring. Hoffmann/Tuchaczek had to reconsider their fellowships too.

II.2.6. Overview of Advanced Academia Program and Gerda Henkel Independent Fellowships

Since the beginning of the Advanced Academia program in 2009 (presently reconfigured into Advanced Academia Platform bringing together all individual-fellowship modules), with the financial support of the *Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science* and,

originally, the *America for Bulgaria Foundation*, CAS has granted fellowships to 87 young and established Bulgarian scholars. With the assistance of *Porticus Foundation*, since 2011, and of the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation*, 2013-2019, the program has opened to international Fellows. A total of 62 foreign Fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled between 2011 and 2019. 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 Caucasus region and Turkey.

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 November 2018 (with a deadline 31 March 2019). The calls yielded a total of 79 applicants for the International module, 35 for the Gerda Henkel module, 38 for the *Bulgarian Junior module*, 7 from the *Bulgarian diaspora*, and 5 for *Senior fellowships* from over 30 countries in Europe, North America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

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 July 2019, while the short-listed candidates were interviewed by two council members, Prof. Galin Tihanov and Prof. Janos Kovacs, the CAS Director, and the CAS Permanent Fellow, on 8 and 9 July 2019.

Eight Bulgarian and seven international Fellows (including two Gerda Henkel Fellows from Russia and Moldova, respectively) were selected. The academic year with the new cohort of CAS Fellows opened on 1 October 2019 (see **AR ANNEX III** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects). Unfortunately, the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 and the severe restrictions imposed by many institutions and countries prevented some of them from travelling to Sofia: Dr. Alessandro Nannini is still under quarantine at his home in Northern Italy, Dr. Jean-François Laniel had to stay in Canada due to the cancellation of international flights. Similarly, Dr. Lilia Topouzova (University of Toronto), selected under the Bulgaria Diaspora module, had to postpone her work in Sofia for the spring semester of 2021. The rest of the international fellows, who had started their resident periods earlier in February and March, are committed to complete their academic work at CAS. Although we had to rearrange our programme thoroughly and cancel all public events, we continue to convene the regular CAS Fellow seminars online via the Zoom communication platform. On the brighter side, this unique situation offered the CAS fellows the rare opportunity for full concentration and intense individual work at home on long-planned manuscripts and publications.

Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series:

CAS has originally planned to open the tenth season of the series in April 2020, presenting the research results of the 2019/2020 Bulgarian Fellows. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the lectures were rescheduled to take place in October-December 2020. (For more details, see below under II.6. Public Events; for the Calendar of the 2020 Public Lectures see **AR ANNEX IV**)

The research results of the Bulgarian and international Fellows from the 2018/2019 group were published in electronic form in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) as *CAS Working Paper Series*.

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, visiting exhibitions, Bulgarian language courses for the foreign Fellows, etc.

II.2.7. Lost in Transition: Social Sciences, Scenarios of Transformation, and Cognitive Dissonances in East Central Europe after 1989

This project, funded by 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’s duration is 3 years (1 Nov. 2019 - 31 Oct. 2022). It envisages the following activities: individual and team research work, regular workshops, 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 (Diana Mishkova, Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia, Balázs Trencsényi, Central European University, Budapest, János Mátyás Kovács, RECET, University of Vienna, Michal Kopeček, Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Science, Ivana Spasić, Institute for Sociological Research, University of Belgrade, and Bogdan Iancu, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest), the analytical instruments to interrogate critically the capacities of their disciplines to meet the challenges of our future.

The first workshop to outline the agenda and attune the methodological tool kit of the team took place in Budapest in December 2019. In March 2020 the core group of senior scholars evaluated the submitted applications and from a pool of 9 candidates appointed two junior political scientists to join the team for the first stage of the research. The other (strong) applicants have been invited to the forthcoming workshop in Sofia in July 2020, where they will be given the chance to present their project proposals whereas the core group members will be able to evaluate more closely their potential as members of the research team.

II.2.8. PREVEX project (Preventing Violent Extremism in the Balkans and the MENA: Strengthening Resilience in Enabling Environments)

The overarching objective of PREVEX is to put forward more fine-tuned and effective approaches to preventing violent extremism. Focusing on the broader MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and the Balkans, context-sensitive, in-depth case studies of the occurrence and non-occurrence of violent extremism will be carried out and then brought together in a regional comparison. In doing so, PREVEX will seek to improve the understanding of how different drivers of violent extremism operate. Particular emphasis will be placed on how to strengthen resilience through investigating the non-occurrence of violent extremism in ‘enabling environment’. The project consists of a carefully assembled team of area and subject experts, representing both EU member states and the regions analyzed. The project will be implemented under the Horizon 2020 EU grant scheme. The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs is the project coordinator. The kick-off workshop took place in Brussels on 2-4 February, 2019.

In this project, CAS is in charge of WP5 assigned to investigate violent extremism in the Balkans, identify lessons learnt and best practice for the EU’s work on preventing violent extremism. Its work starts by investigating ‘enabling environments’ and drivers of violent extremism in the region, before proceeding to map and assess the effect of / public reactions to the preventive measures of the EU and other key stakeholders. Building on these tasks, WP5 will examine the occurrence and non-occurrence of violent extremism, providing insights into the factors that result in some ‘enabling environments’ experiencing violent extremism, while others remain relatively resilient. Finally, it will make concrete policy proposals to the EU regarding preventing violent extremism in the region. Simeon Evstatiev,

an Arabist and presently CAS fellow, and Diana Mishkova will be responsible for the overall coordination and supervision of the research and management activities, while another three junior scholars will be involved in field work, interviewing and processing data.

This project is funded by the European Union's *Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program*.

II.2.9. The Construction of Knowledge in Archaeology and Art History in Southeastern Europe

The program aims to investigate how archaeology creates knowledge in Southeastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and the Turkish province of East Thrace), taking into account the particularities of the local research traditions and their connections with research traditions of other disciplines, especially art history. The project's intent is to better understand why the culture-historical way of thinking about the past remains dominant in the region, and to encourage diversity and pluralism, generated by examining the ideas in which research practices are grounded, their history, what keeps them in place. It also seeks to examine how we determine what a useful novelty is – an examination that has better chances of success if conducted by constantly comparing what we do with what is done in other traditions of archaeological research.

The program is structured through a series of Conferences and Spring Schools taking place in three different capital cities in the region (Sofia, Bucharest, and Athens) over three years. The overall structure has been envisaged as an opportunity for new synergies between scholars working across the region; given the current state of the discipline in the region (an overbearing “Western” bias associated with the neglect of intra-regional collaboration), it is not uncommon for archaeologists and art historians working across a national border from one another to never have interacted in the framework of common academic research project. The two Conferences and the three Spring Schools proposed by our Program are designed as a way of deploying new academic networks – cross-national and cross-generational – across the region.

The program is coordinated by the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS), in collaboration with Dr. Gheorghe Alexandru Niculescu (Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest) and Prof. Dimitris Plantzos (Department of History and Archaeology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) who act as the Program's co-directors. It is funded by the *Getty Foundation*, as part of the *Connecting Art Histories Initiative*.

The initial phase of the program began in September 2019 with the preparation of the Opening Conference “Looking at Things in Southeastern Europe: Regional Archaeology in Search of Viable Futures” and the First Spring School “The Impact of the Political on Archaeological Research” to take place in Sofia, Bulgaria in April 2020. Thirteen scholars from the region of Southeastern Europe were invited to present at the Opening Conference.

They are senior scholars from major universities and institutes in Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. Nine eminent scholars from Greece, Germany, Romania, the United Kingdom, and the United States were invited to the Spring School to deliver lectures and workshop presentations. Twelve junior scholars were selected for participation in the Spring School 2020 via an open call. These are young researchers and doctoral students: nine from the region of Southeastern Europe - from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey, and three from beyond this region - from Latvia, Poland and the Netherlands.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemics this project was postponed by one year whereby the Opening Conference and First Spring School will take place in April 2021 (instead of April 2020) with the same participants and program.

II.3. Challenges Facing the Future of Social Sciences and Humanities

This is a pilot phase project of the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia, 2019-2022, supported by the *Centre for Culture and Governance in Europe, University of St. Gallen*.

The social sciences and humanities (SSH) in many parts of Europe have been experiencing serious difficulties over the past decades in terms of sustainable career prospects as well as growth of research opportunities. A major factor feeding into these developments is the chronic underfunding of the field – a trend common to many European states, one that follows the growing global appetite for STEM instead of SSH-oriented curricula, which in turn responds better to economic growth and labour market needs. In many countries this diminishes the incentives among students to enrol, even less pursue an academic career, in SSH, whereas in Southeast and Central Europe it boosts the rates of academic emigration instead: scholars with stronger SSH records find less and less motivation and/or enough opportunities to seek career development at home. Accordingly, the overall quality of local academic environments deteriorates, as there remain fewer professionals to contribute to its advancement. This is a vicious circle indeed: underfunding and depressed research environment lead to increased de-motivation and emigration, which affects negatively the quality of academic output, which then brings more underfunding and less incentive to pursue academic career. In brief, the social sciences and humanities are facing a complex challenge, the successful overcoming of which may be decisive for their health in the mid to long-term future.

To accomplish this task, the project proposes to provide a detailed comparative analysis of the current evaluation policies in both minor and major non-English-speaking countries (a) such as e.g. Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia, the Baltic States, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary, as well as (b) those somewhat better positioned with regard to research funding, such as e.g. Holland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and juxtapose these with the situation in countries like Germany, Austria, Italy, France, and Spain.

The planned project outcomes will include (1) a detailed web-based interactive map of SSH evaluation criteria; (2) an extensive pack of specific policy support guidelines – ones that secure a brighter, more inclusive and fertile SSH future; (3) build a dynamic primary network of scholars across the Continent to facilitate, and launching of a grander initiative: an EC-funded permanent European SSH Evaluation Observatory with the primary task of regularly updating the ‘map’ of SSH funding in diverse corners of Europe.

In early March CAS launched an information campaign targeting researchers and institutions with expertise in this specific area – assessment and valorisation of academic output – with a focus on the small European nations and languages and the intension to build up an open but consolidated platform for exchange of different approaches to quality measurement and assurance in the social sciences and the humanities. The deadline for receiving applications is 15 May, 2020. The feedback from interested groups and scholars so far is encouraging and we are looking forward to the kick-off meeting later in 2020.

II.4. Completed Projects

II.4.1. How to Teach Europe in the 21st Century

The program (2017–2019), which was supported by Porticus and the Robert Bosch Foundation, targeted 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 sought 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.

The sixth (final) workshop under this program took place in October 2019 in Bucharest. The specific focus of the seminar was to discuss the final project outcomes, which are to be published on the specially developed project website: <https://research-to-teach.eu/> Besides the immediate and tangible products of this project - six highly innovative and path-breaking university courses from different fields of the social sciences (anthropology, history, literary studies and historical sociology) which are freely accessible on the mentioned internet address – “How to Teach Europe?” project opened completely new prospects for both CAS and NEC. Originally devoted to advanced and fundamental research it was new and compelling experience for our intellectual associates to translate their knowledge and findings into more popular language and media. In the long run this is a specific direction which the two institutes are committed to explore and further exploit. There was strong consensus among the members of the team that this pilot phase should develop into a new round of the project following the same pattern – meeting innovative research with teaching. Possibilities for follow-up funding are to be probed.

II.4.2. 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 (CAS) established a research NETWORK devoted to the history of the monastic economy in South-Eastern and Western Europe. (<https://www.cas.bg/en/cas-current-programs/research-networkdedicated-to-the-history-of-the-monastic-economy-53.html>). The Academic Coordinator of the project was Assoc. Professor and CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov. The term of the project expired in October 2019. Given the activities and the outcomes obtained in the frame of the NETWORK, we can confidently assert that it succeeded in enhancing the contacts between scholars, in assisting mobility and hence in fostering the intellectual debate in the field.

- The three workshops hosted by CAS (November 2017, November 2018 and October 2019) listed 56 presentations by 33 researchers from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, and UK. The breakdown of the discussed topics included general problems (3); the economy of Mount Athos (12); cases and trends from XV-XVIII c. (20), XIX c. (9), and XX-XXI c. (10). In line with the NETWORK's comparative philosophy, the presentations touched upon the economy of both Orthodox (43) and Catholic (11) monasticism.
- Three guest-lectures were delivered to a wider audience: by Prof. Victor Roudometof (University of Cyprus, Nicosia) who talked on The Transformations of Orthodox Christianity in the Longue-Durée: A Sociological Analysis; by Prof. Elias Kolovos (University of Crete) who gave a speech on Monasteries, Economy, and Politics from Medieval to Modern Times; and by Assoc. Professor Kostis Smyrlis (National Hellenic Research Foundation) on The Great Byzantine Monastery: A Success Story (Cf. the interview with him in the current CAS Newsletter).
- The NETWORK provided 11 Research allowances in support of individual projects on the history of the monastic economy. The applicants were selected on a competitive basis with beneficiaries from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, and Serbia.

The positive effects of the NETWORK will be furthered through future contacts, exchange of information or cooperation between the participants, and by the dissemination of the results. The proposal for an edited volume including 18 papers from the workshops has been submitted and is under consideration by a renowned international publisher.

II.5. Other Academic Activities

II.5.1. CAS Guest Lectures

Following its experience of inviting renowned researchers to be guest-lecturers at CAS, the Centre continued with the tradition in 2019. **Bissera Pentcheva** (Full Professor at the Department of Art & Art History at Stanford University, USA) gave a talk on: "Ephemeral Liveliness in Medieval Art: Gold Relief, Chant, and the Eucharistic Rite". The lecture

presented an unusual take on the concept of animation in pre-modern art understood as the craftsmanship of liveliness. The talk argued that chant and the performance of the liturgical ritual further intensify the sensorial experience of animation, and that, this exploration uncovers a parallel between the medieval performative image and the contemporary installation art. This lecture was made possible with the kind support of *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*.

II.5.2. International Workshop “Recent Research on the Greater War in Eastern Europe (1912-1923)”

In October 2019, the Centre for Advanced Study hosted an international workshop panel, whereby former and current CAS research fellows and two distinguished international guest speakers debated the latest approaches to the study of the Great War in the region. Through lively discussion sessions after each individual presentation, the workshop participants outlined pertinent issues on the research of WWI. Whereas such historiographical treatment can hardly find its resolution in a one-day workshop, the event nevertheless provided the participants with a plethora of various fascinating topics that await their future treatment. The workshop involved a diversity of scholars, including Robert Gerwarth and William Mulligan (The Centre for War Studies at the University College Dublin), former CAS alumni fellows Martin Valkov (Sofia University), Spyros Tsoutsoumpis (Wolverhampton University, UK), DMITAR TASIĆ (University of Hradec Králové), Andrei CUSCO (State University of Moldova), and John Paul Newman (Maynooth University).

II.5.3. International Workshop “Balkan Armies and Balkan Societies: Militarization, Securitization, Transformation, 1804-1912”

In December 2019, CAS Fellow Dr John Paul Newman convened a workshop that studied the formation of Balkan national armies in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. A group of international experts were invited to the Centre to discuss this important topic. The discussions focussed on three important questions, 1) how the national armies did or did not supplant the Balkan insurrectionary tradition of the earlier part of the nineteenth century, 2) how universal conscription was intended as a school of citizenship in Balkan societies (and how successful this was), and 3) the extent to which the formation of a professional officer corps in Balkan national states created a potential rival to the civilian political leaderships. The list of participants included Constantin Iordachi, Filip Lyapov, Siniša Malešević, Jovo Miladinov, Rok Stergar, DMITAR TASIĆ, and Spyros Tsoutsoumpis.

II.6. CAS Discussion Series

II.6.1. 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 has

organized since 2017, seven seminars involving prominent Bulgarian and foreign speakers. In January 2020 CAS hosted one workshop, convened by Dr. Emilia Zankina, who talked on: *Populism/s East and West: an Empirical and Theoretical Comparison*. The next presenter will be Prof. Evelina Kelbecheva who will deliver a talk on the topic *Declarations and Laws, History and Memory*.

II.7. Publications resulting from CAS projects and discussion series

II.7.1. “Age(ing) under Socialism” (ed. Daniela Koleva)

The volume *Age(ing) under Socialism* is the final academic output based on CAS popular Discussion Series, *Existential Policies under Socialism*. Convened by Associate Professor Dr Daniela Koleva back in 2011–2012, over nearly a decade ago, the Discussion Series brought together a number of Bulgarian scholars from various walks of life addressing, researching and debating everyday life under Socialism as illustrated by the concept of ‘Love’, ‘Death’, and ‘Childhood’, as well as shedding light on state attitudes towards ‘the Body’ between 1944–1989. The title of the last collection, *Age(ing) under Socialism*, is double entendre, alluding both to the generational aspect and the demographic issues of “Old Age” as a topic of investigation. The concept of ‘Age’ acquired a polysemantic function, as it does not only articulate the interdependence amongst the generational groups, but also serves as a key instrument to explore the links between people’s life paths and the overall social changes and dynamics of Socialist regime over the decades.

II.7.2. The Forced Assimilation of Turks in Bulgaria, 1984–1989: Reflections on Its Ideology, History and Consequences (ed. Roumen Avramov)

In late 1984 the Bulgarian communist regime unleashed a brutal assimilation campaign against the Turkish minority in the country. Euphemistically labelled “Revival Process”, the campaign was ideologically justified by the goal to build a “homogeneous socialist nation” and by the false claim about an allegedly common “ethnic Bulgarian root” of the whole population, including the Turks. Pursued ruthlessly in a period of four years, those policies led ultimately to a deadlock and to the gradual international isolation of the regime. The first open protests of the Turkish community in May 1989 were repressed violently at the cost of human losses. Thereafter, the Communist Party decided to get rid of as many Bulgarian Turks as possible by orchestrating a nationalistic euphoria which incited the exodus of more than 320 000 of them to neighboring Turkey. The political and economic impact of those events contributed in a decisive way to the collapse of the totalitarian system in the country.

Wishing to commemorate the perpetrated ethnic repression and to foster the debate, CAS organized a Round Table dedicated to this fault line in recent Bulgarian history. The discussion was held on 18 January 2019 and gathered nearly 30 scholars. The book collects eleven selected presentations from the conference.

II.8. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series

The public lectures are an important element of the Advanced Academia program 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. In the recent years these events have gained much popularity and attention by scholars from various universities, academy institutes and other scientific organizations.

As it was already mentioned above, the tenth consecutive series of the *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series*, scheduled to start on 8 April 2020, was postponed to October-December, 2020. (For the 2020 program of the lecture series, see **AR ANNEX IV**).

II.9. CAS Library

II.9.1. 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 2019 the Library has enriched its collection with 50 new books on various topics in the sphere of the humanities and social sciences.

II.9.2. 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 2019 more than 20 articles were sent to the users.

III. VISIBILITY, NETWORKING, DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Currently CAS' website is undergoing a radical functional update and redesigning. After more than ten years, the previous website has grown outdated in terms of usability, navigation and design. The new website is planned to be more functional and versatile, so that it could be easily accessed via various electronic devices, including smart phones. We expect that by the end of April the new CAS website will be ready and fully operative, building on new visual appeal while sustaining the institution's brand identity.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** (<http://www.gate.cas.bg/>) offers the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the nine-year existence of the Gateway, Dimitar 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 543 registered users from academia. The annual number of unique visits averages 11,300 and more than 80,000 pages are viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings (<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 (1,084 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The annual number of visits for 2019 amounts to 4,917, while 77,787 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. Until 2019 the Centre has relied on the additional financial resources made available through the *Advanced Academia project* budget for 2016/2019, which included 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 2019/2020 appeared in the beginning of 2020.

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 430 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 an active response from the audience.

CAS Sofia,

April 2020