

Diana Mishkova
Director
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CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Following three years of restrictions to group gatherings, in the spring of 2022 CAS was finally able to reinstate the in-person fellow seminars and public events. From the beginning of the 2022/2023 academic year the Centre is operating in its usual rhythm, with restored weekly seminar discussions and unobstructed face-to-face exchange between our eighteen in-residence fellows this year. We provide an online alternative via the Zoom communication platform in case of absence due to a research trip or a non-residence fellow attending. This hybrid form has also allowed us to broaden the circle of attendees, both local and international.

The eleventh cycle of public lectures under the Advanced Academia programme for CAS junior and senior Bulgarian Fellows also reopened in the fall of 2022 and will continue through 2023. As before, it is addressed to a broad academic public from local universities and research institutes and takes place at the Sofia City Library. CAS also resumed the regular seminars in the framework of its various Discussion Series.

Throughout the year CAS' staff continued its normal office work and was accessible to all fellows who needed assistance or a working space. The CAS library remained open at all time to our fellows. Special attention during the past year was paid to possibilities to reach out to and help Ukrainian scholars continue their work under wartime conditions. We are grateful to the Marga und Kurt Möllgaard-Stiftung for having provided funding for one non-residence scholarship for Ukrainian scholars affected by war. Currently we are negotiating the prolongation of this support scheme. Similarly, we intend to address the Landis & Gyr artistic fellowship primarily to Ukrainian artists.

Starting in May 2023, the CAS Board of Trustees will be joined by a new member - Prof. Oliver Jens Schmitt, an outstanding historian of Southeastern Europe, Vice-president of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and a dedicated supporter of CAS. On behalf of the CAS team, I would like to most warmly welcome Prof. Schmitt!

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Personnel

I.1.1. Academic personnel and Academic Advisory Council

As of April 2022, the core academic personnel of CAS includes its Director, Diana Mishkova (History) and three Academic Associates: Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (Intellectual history) and two new members, who were elected at the CAS Board of Trustees Meeting in 2022 - Assoc. Prof. Martin Ivanov (Economic History) and Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Alexandrova (Literature), both of them former CAS fellows and active participants in projects and activities of the Centre.

Presently, the Academic Advisory Council includes Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer (History, Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg), Prof. Raymond Detrez (Literature, 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), Prof. Galin Tihanov (George Steiner Chair of Comparative Literature, Queen Mary, University of London), and Prof. Roumen Avramov (Economic History). See **AR ANNEX I** for additional information on all CAS bodies, memberships and mandates.

In November 2022 and February 2023 CAS Director, Prof. Diana Mishkova, was awarded two prestigious prizes: The *Danubius Award*, granted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research to honour achievements in science and research in and for the Danube region, and the *Konstantin Jireček Medal* of the German Southeast Europe Society, awarded to renowned experts on Southeast Europe from the fields of science and culture for outstanding contributions and achievements in international research on Southeast Europe. On both occasions the role of CAS as a unique haven for free advanced research on Southeastern Europe was emphasized and paid tribute to.

I.1.2. Administrative personnel

A new member of the CAS administrative team, Ms Olga Nyagolova, was employed to replace Mr Theodore Poumpalov, who resigned in December 2022 for personal reasons. Like her predecessor, Ms Nyagolova is employed on a full-time basis starting in November 2022. No further changes in the administrative staff have been introduced since the last Board meeting.

I.2. Financial analysis

I.2.1. Institutional funding

In 2022, the institutional funding of CAS was secured primarily by the Swiss Government annual grant of **CHF 120,000.00**.

In addition, the Thomas Abegg Stiftung für Geist und Kultur, Switzerland, provided support for the *CAS Platform for Networking Activities* at the amount of **CHF 16,667.00** per year over three years (2019-2022). The *Platform* serves to sustain CAS's network and public outreach by supporting the Centre's regular alumni gatherings, Discussion Series, the Advanced Academia Public Lectures, conferences and round-table discussions, workshops on the initiative of CAS fellows, the CAS annual Newsletter and Guest Lecture Series.

Part of the institutional funding was provided by way of administrative subventions in the framework of the Centre's various projects, a total of **€24,281.46** for 2022.

See **AR ANNEX II** for the CAS Financial Report 2022.

I.2.2. Expenditures 2022, Financial Report

Overall expenditures (project-related and institutional) for 2022 amount to **€339,204.96**, of which **€118,312.97** institutional expenses (personnel, running costs, up-keeping costs, Academic Council meetings, external services, equipment, etc.).

The project-related costs are **€220,891.99**, of which **€152,646.62** for fellowships and **€68,245.37** for workshops, publications and other project-related activities.

I.2.3. Annual Financial Statements (approved by certified auditor)

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

I.3. Fundraising and Sustainability

The Swiss Government grant of **CHF 120,000.00** per annum is contracted until June 2024 as part of the Bulgarian-Swiss Memorandum of Understanding (see below I.3.1.). The grant is mediated by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe - University of St. Gallen, with which CAS collaborates closely in academic matters. Another **CHF 50,000.00** have been provided, as per an agreement between CAS and the Thomas Abegg Stiftung für Geist und Kultur, to support *CAS Platform for Networking Activities* over a period of three years (2019-2022). In 2022 the remaining €5,137.00 from this grant were spent as part of CAS's institutional expenses.

I.3.1. Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum of Understanding

CAS continues the implementation of 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 programme for young Bulgarian scholars and scholars from the Bulgarian diaspora. It involves (i) Bulgarian state support of 598,483.00 BGN (€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 carried out by CAS between October 2019 and June 2024; and (ii) continuation of the Swiss government institutional support for CAS for five years (2019–2024), which as of November 2020 is CHF 120,000.00 per annum (2021-2024).

For the first four years of its implementation the Memorandum secured 19 nine-months Fellowships for young Bulgarian scholars and 8 three-months grants for scholars from the Bulgarian diaspora. The combined effect of these two modules of the Swiss-Bulgarian support scheme, plus the presence of international researches at CAS goes beyond the purely statistical trend. The chances to build new and renew old contacts with colleagues from academia in Bulgaria (and vice versa) is considered especially valuable and with long-term consequences (more information on how fellows see the benefits of the programmes can be seen in **AR ANNEX V** - CAS Fellows Feedback).

During the fall of 2022 CAS renewed its talks with representatives of MES probing the prospects for extending the duration of the Memorandum on the Bulgarian side for another five years (June 2024-June 2029). Upon his own initiative, which we much appreciate, the Swiss Ambassador to Sofia, Mr Raymond Furrer, was also involved in the process. In November 2022 Mr Furrer held a meeting with the acting Bulgarian minister of Education and Science, who confirmed the commitment of the Bulgarian government to continue its support for CAS in the framework of a renewed Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum. In the event of prolongation of the Memorandum, CAS will insist on raising the Bulgarian contribution to match the increase of the Swiss support and compensate for the current inflation, while preserving the overall structure of the programme. Formal steps towards prolongation will have to be undertaken in the coming months.

I.4. Partnerships and cooperation

CAS has maintained its traditional cooperation with partners in the country (major universities, academic institutes, cultural media, etc.) and several IASs and universities abroad, most notably the *Center for Governance and Culture in Europe* (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland), the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* (Wiko), *New Europe College* (NEC), the *Institute for Human Sciences* (IWM), the *Central European University* (CEU), the *Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung* in Regensburg, and the *Imre Kertész Kolleg* in Jena. A renowned addition to this list is, since last year, the *American Council of Learned Societies* (ACLS), in partnership with which CAS has launched a new three-year programme (2023-2025) – see below under II.2.4., and **AP ANNEX V**.

Central to these partnerships is the close cooperation with *NEC* in Bucharest and *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*. In 2022, CAS and NEC ran jointly the Social Relevance of the Humanities (RevHum) fellowship programme, financed by the Porticus Foundation. This three-year individual fellowship programme provides for two ten-month or four five-month in-residence fellowships for foreign scholars in each institution. Each year a joint workshop is organized with the participation of the fellows from both institutes with the aim to stimulate fellow interaction and the outreach component of the fellowships. The first such workshop took place at CAS on the 4 July 2022. Its proceedings revolved around the broad theme of how to translate innovative and fundamental research agendas into tangible public good. The second joint workshop is scheduled for 28 June 2023 at NEC and will focus on how scholars in the humanities and social sciences react to technological breakthroughs, such as the power of generative artificial intelligence (ChatGPT or Google’s Bard). Another major CAS-NEC event was the Second Spring School in the framework of the CAS programme “*The Construction of Knowledge in Archaeology and Art History in Southeastern Europe*”, funded by the Getty Foundation (see below under II.2.3.), which was hosted by NEC.

A new phase in the collaboration with NEC and Wiko was opened with the recent approval by VolkswagenStiftung of a joint fellowship program, “Sustaining Ukrainian Scholarship” (2023-2026) – see **AP II.2.2.**

The expected prolongation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum for Understanding, underpinned by the lasting close collaboration with the *Center for Governance and Culture in Europe* at the University of St. Gallen, will continue to play an important role in asserting CAS as the only independent institution supporting postdoctoral research in the social and human sciences in Bulgaria. In the context of the Memorandum, we should also mention the smooth working relations with the Science Directorate at the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, which is charged with the financial management and overseeing of the Bulgarian component.

Special mention is due to CAS’ new partnership with the *American Council of Learned Societies* (ACLS), which was made possible following an initiative and a subsequent grant by Carl and Betty Pforzheimer. Formed in 1919, ACLS is a high-profile nonprofit federation of 79 scholarly organizations. It is the preeminent representative of American scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences, engaged in promoting the circulation of humanistic knowledge throughout society. In addition to stewarding and representing its member organizations, ACLS employs its \$140 million endowment and \$35 million annual operating budget to support scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and to advocate for the centrality of the humanities in the modern world. For the joint CAS-ACLS project (2023-2025) see below under II.2.4.

Last but not least, we should add the close partnership with the Swiss Embassy in Bulgaria, upon whose request CAS administers the selection of the Swiss Confederation’s Excellence Scholarships aimed at promoting international exchange and research cooperation (for more, see below under II.4.2. *Swiss Confederation’s Excellence Scholarships*).

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2022/2023, CAS hosted 18 Fellows from 10 countries in the framework of the Advanced Academia platform. Another 15 Fellows are participating in the projects *Lost in Transition* (11) and *PREVEX* (4). See **AR ANNEX IV** for the full list of fellows and their projects.

II.2. Ongoing projects

II.2.1. Advanced Academia Platform

This platform, which brings together all CAS individual-fellowship programmes, grants opportunities to early career and established scholars to conduct independent social-science and humanities research in a multidisciplinary international environment, with no restrictions to the selected areas of study – an approach intended to stimulate excellent scholarship at a high international level.

The Independent Bulgarian-Swiss Fellowship Programme for Bulgarian Junior Scholars and Bulgarian Academic Diaspora (MON 2019-2024) is financed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science (MES), in the framework of the Swiss-Bulgarian Memorandum for Understanding, and provides support for young Bulgarian scientists and researchers from the Bulgarian academic diaspora. It envisages: (i) 5 nine-month scholarships per year for young Bulgarian scholars (including one month in a foreign institution); and (ii) 2 three-month scholarships per year for representatives of the Bulgarian academic diaspora working in foreign academic institutions. The number of applications for this module in 2022 was 27. From this pool, the CAS Academic Council selected 5 Junior scholars and 2 diaspora scholars.

The Pforzheimer Fellowship Programme (PFFP 2019–2024), which is funded through a donation of the American philanthropist Carl H. Pforzheimer III (Co-chairman Emeritus of America for Bulgaria Foundation), provides for two to three 5-month scholarships per year to established Bulgarian researchers and university professors. This grant ensures the full gamut of the Bulgarian segment of the Advanced Academia programme since the grant from MES does not provide support for senior Bulgarian scholars. During the last round of selection in June 2022 the CAS Academic Council did not select senior scholars as the short-listed candidates did not fulfil all the criteria of the fellowship.

Independent Fellowships for International Scholars (AAP 2011-2024) are granted to established and promising early career non-Bulgarian scholars to pursue their individual research projects in-residence in Sofia. The programme is supported by the Porticus Foundation and adds to the international profile of the Advanced Academia platform. Under this programme, for the 2022/2023 academic year, the CAS Academic Council selected 4 international scholars.

The Social Relevance of the Humanities Fellowship Programme (RevHum 2021-2024) is guided by the belief that there is a considerable added value for humanities scholars across the academe, whatever their field, to be encouraged to rethink their topics in terms of their broader contemporary relevance (political, ethical, religious or academic), yet necessarily of significance for the world we are living in. It aims to underscore the cognitive functions of the humanities and their potential as critical disciplines by opening them up to issues relevant in and for the contemporary world – issues that are “practical”, but also epistemological, ethical, philosophical, etc. The programme is addressed to non-Bulgarian scholars and is funded by the Porticus Foundation under its global scheme “*Talents for Good*”. It is carried out in close cooperation with NEC Bucharest, crowned by an annual joint workshop of the CAS and NEC *Rev Hum* fellows.

The first year (2021) of the implementation of this programme had certain specifics. Due to the financial restructuring of another Porticus-funded CAS project, *Lost in Transition* (LiT, see under II.2.2), it was agreed to create a closer synergy between the RevHum project and the LiT team. Funds from the first-year RevHum budget were used to support three fellows working in the framework of the LiT project. These fellows also participated in the joint RevHum workshop, which took place in CAS in July 2022. From October 2022 the RevHum programme has proceeded according to its original design with the enrolment of 2 international scholars (from Greece and Spain) for the 2022/2023 academic year.

The Gerda-Henkel Fellowship Programme (GH 2016-2025) is aimed at scholars from the countries of the former Soviet Union, Central Asia and Turkey and provides up to four scholarships per year. In 2022 under this programme the CAS Academic Council selected 2 scholars (from Ukraine and Georgia) and hosted a scholar (from Turkey), whose fellowship was postponed from the previous year.

Marga and Kurt Möllgaard Fellowship (2022). Since its founding in 2000, CAS' core mission has been the support of scholarly excellence and originality. Very often non-academic factors (for example limited access to proper academic infrastructure, restrictions of mobility, political predicaments, etc.) prevent young scholars from applying for CAS scholarships. Throughout the years we have tried to address this imbalance through different support schemes with the long-term ambition to provide equal opportunities for scholars with different cultural and geographical backgrounds to meet at CAS and benefit from the intellectual encounters we provide for.

In the last few years of pandemic restrictions and the subsequent escalation of a full-scale war in Ukraine this kind of awareness gained new relevance and urgency. We realised that face-to-face communication – an intrinsic part of the establishment of a vital scholarly community – is not always accessible. Thus, trying to preserve the added value of academic in-residence fellowships in institutes for advanced study and, at the same time, take advantage of new communication technologies, we opened up our research environment to another peer group – scholars at risk or in disadvantaged condition, who due to political, economic, medical or family reasons are not able to travel, by offering non-resident fellowships for a period of 2 to 5 months. The aim is to provide alternative routes for improvement and career advancement of researchers exposed to difficult social or individual circumstances. We believe that by bringing outstanding scholars together with younger colleagues and/or scholars from “underperforming” countries or societies at risk, CAS can yield benefits to all parties involved, including our institution.

With this intention and a particular Ukrainian candidate in mind, who is handicapped and lives in Kharkov, CAS addressed and received the approval of the Marga and Kurt Möllgaard Foundation to support one Non-resident Fellowship for a Scholar at Risk. This support scheme would not have been possible without the initiative and valuable help which Dr Katharina Biegger provided in communication with the donor.

The Landis & Gyr International Residency Programme for Artists and Writers (L&G 2017-2025) is aimed at stimulating and promoting the creative work of artists from various fields – writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, actors, film or theatre directors, architects, etc. – by integrating them in a community of humanities and social-science scholars and spurring interaction between fundamental research and the arts. The fellowship programme, which is funded by the Landis & Gyr Foundation (Switzerland), has been running since 2017 and was recently extended until 2025. It provides for one five-month fellowship for a Bulgarian or other Eastern European artist. For the 2022/2023 academic year the CAS Academic Council selected for participation a Bulgarian writer as CAS fellow under this programme.

The contracted terms of the grant, furthermore, include the possibility of Swiss artists to visit Sofia and be integrated in the CAS community. For the academic year 2022/2023, three guest fellow-artists selected by the Landis & Gyr Foundation will join us in Sofia – Pauline Boudry, Renate Lorenz, and Kathrin Borer. All three work in the field of visual arts, produce installations, and try to conceptualise various tensions of the contemporary world by “upsetting the normative historical narrative”.

For the 2021-2022 Fellows' feedback, see **AR ANNEX V**.

Overview of the Advanced Academia Programme and the Gerda-Henkel Independent Fellowships

Since the beginning of the Advanced Academia programme (later reconfigured into Advanced Academia Platform bringing together all individual-fellowship sub-programmes) in 2009, CAS has granted fellowships to **110 early-career and established Bulgarian scholars**. Through grants from the *Porticus Foundation* (since 2011) and the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation* (2013-2019), the programme has been opened to international (non-Bulgarian) Fellows, 90 overall till 2022. The inclusion of another 19 young researchers from the former Soviet Republics, the Caucasus region and Turkey have been provided for so far by the *Gerda Henkel Foundation* (since 2018). A total of **109 foreign Fellows** (junior and senior) were enrolled between 2011 and 2022.

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

The *Calls for Applications for 2022/2023* (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically between December 2021 and March 2022 (with the deadline for application on 31 March 2022). The calls yielded a total of 78 eligible applications from over 29 countries in Europe, North America, Asia, Africa and Australia: 32 for the *international* module, 16 for the *Gerda Henkel* module, 24 for the *Bulgarian Junior* module, 3 from the *Bulgarian diaspora*, and 7 for *Senior fellowships*.

The CAS Academic Council held its regular session on 18 June 2022 at a mountain chalet in the vicinity of Sofia. The short-listed candidates were interviewed on 22-23 June 2022 by three council members, Prof. Attila Melegh, Prof. Carmen Scheide, and Prof. Roumen Avramov, joined by the CAS Director.

7 Bulgarian and 9 international Fellows (including 2 Gerda Henkel Fellows) from 9 countries were selected. The academic year opened on 4 October 2022.

See **AR ANNEX IV** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their project proposals.

II.2.2. PREVEX Project (Preventing Violent Extremism in the Balkans and the MENA: Strengthening Resilience in Enabling Environments - Grant agreement ID: 870724) (2020-2023)

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 are being carried out and then brought together in a regional comparison. In doing so, PREVEX seeks to improve the understanding of how different drivers of violent extremism operate. Particular emphasis is placed on how to strengthen resilience through investigating the non-occurrence of violent extremism in ‘enabling environments.’ The project consists of a carefully assembled team of area and subject experts, representing both EU member states and the regions analysed. The project is implemented under the European Union’s *Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme* grant scheme. Its coordinator is the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, whereas CAS is in charge of WP5 tasked with coordinating the five groups charged with investigating violent extremism in the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

Prof. Simeon Evstatiev, an Arabist and former CAS fellow, and Diana Mishkova are responsible for the overall coordination and supervision of the research and management activities within WP5, while

another two postdoc scholars are involved, on the CAS side, with supportive functions (conducting interviews, collecting and processing data, doing field work, etc.) and submitting publishable research results.

The year 2022 was mainly devoted to completing three deliverables: (a) Policy brief summarising lessons learnt on the EU's measures to prevent violent extremism in the region; (b) Academic article on violent extremism in the Western Balkans region; and, (c) Academic article on the impact of the EU's measures to prevent violent extremism in the Western Balkan region. Added to it are three more articles, already submitted by the CAS team for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

The original end date of the project (31 Dec 2022) was extended to 30 June 2023. This made it possible for one of the CAS team members, Dr Evlogi Stanchev, to undertake one more field study in North Macedonia and present his finding in yet another academic article. Currently Simeon Evstatiev and Diana Mishkova are finalizing their work on their respective chapters comparing MENA and the Western Balkans. The concluding conference under this project will take place on 18-19 April in Brussels.

II.2.3. The Construction of Knowledge in Archaeology and Art History in Southeastern Europe (2019-2023)

The programme funded by the Getty Foundation as part of its *Connecting Art Histories Initiative*, investigates how archaeology creates knowledge in Southeastern Europe (namely, Albania, Bosnia & 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, and 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 programme is structured around a series of conferences and Spring Schools taking place in three different capital cities in the region (Sofia, Bucharest and Athens), envisaged to stimulate new synergies between scholars working across the region. The two Conferences and the three Spring Schools, each under specific topic, as envisaged by the programme are designed so as to create new cross-national and cross-generational academic networks in the region. Each Spring School includes lectures by invited prominent speakers in the field, a workshop and a colloquium for the early career scholars. CAS is coordinating the programme in collaboration with the former NEC fellow 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 programme's co-directors.

In 2022 the Second Spring School of the programme titled "*Local Archaeologies and Their Interdisciplinary Practices*" was hosted by the CAS' partner institution, the New Europe College in Bucharest on 9-15 May. Nine prominent archaeologists and art historians from the Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Romania, the United Kingdom and the USA presented their lectures and took part in the workshop. Following an open call, eleven early career scholars and doctoral students were selected for participation in the Spring School. The school consisted of three days of lectures by senior scholars; a one-day workshop on "*What can archaeologists and art historians learn from each other?*"; and a colloquium that offered to the junior participants the opportunity to present their work. It completed its program with visits to the Bucharest Municipality Museum and the National Museum of Art in Bucharest.

The organisation of the Third Spring School dedicated to “*Archaeological Heritage Preservation and Cultural Heritage Discourses*” started in fall 2022. The School will take place at CAS from 24 to 30 April 2023.

For details on the forthcoming Third Spring School and the Closing conference, see the Activity plan for 2023 under *II.2.3*. For the full programme of the School see **AP ANNEX IV**.

II.2.4. Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE) (2023-2025)

This is a combined project of CAS Sofia and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), which was made possible through a generous donation by Betty Pforzheimer and Carl H. Pforzheimer III.

The programme envisages three “summer institutes” (2023-2025), which will convene leading scholars from East Central and Southeastern Europe and North America working on the region for a two-week residency at the campus of the American University in Blagoevgrad (Southwestern Bulgaria) SISECSE will enable scholars to undertake local fieldwork in the region, including archival research, work in museum collections, interviews, site surveys, or other forms of data collection.

In addition to conducting their own research, scholars will have the opportunity to participate in small group workshops, as well as a series of immersive discussions on a broad topic of shared academic interest. The selection of participants in the first institute (1-15 June 2023) was carried out in February 2023 by a three-member Advisory Committee including Galin Tihanov (George Steiner Professor of Comparative Literature; Department Chair, Comparative Literature and Culture at Queen Mary University of London; Member of the CAS Advisory Council), Balázs Trencsényi (Professor at the History Department of the Central European University, Budapest; CAS Academic associate) and Maria Sonevitsky (Associate Professor of Anthropology and Music at Bard College, New York).

For more on the forthcoming 2023 Summer Institute see *II.2.4* in the Activity Plan for 2023. For the full list of participants and their projects, see **AP ANNEX V**.

II.3. Completed Projects

II.3.1. Challenges Facing the Future of Social Sciences and Humanities (2019-2022)

This project was supported by the Centre for Governance and Culture in Europe (SGCE), University of St. Gallen.

Against the backdrop of growing global appetite for STEM at the expense of humanities and social-science oriented curricula, the project seeks to provide a detailed comparative analysis of the current evaluation policies in both minor and major non-English speaking countries (such as most East European states) and those somewhat better positioned with regard to research funding (such as the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Norway), and juxtapose these with the situation in countries like Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland and Spain. The project is coordinated by CAS, in collaboration with Dr Martin Ossikovski (former CAS fellow and current Assoc. Prof. at New Bulgarian University) who acts as the programme coordinator.

In the summer of 2020, the core group of 11 experts was formed. In the spring of 2021, additional experts were added to the core group. The coverage of the field work was thus expanded to ten countries altogether. The entire second year of the project (2021-2022) was spent harvesting data on research evaluation and funding of the social sciences and humanities. An IT team was formed, responsible for the technical completion of the project’s core output - a webtool to visualise all data onto an interactive map of Europe.

The project's final year was spent processing the data gathered in 2021-2022, building the webtool, and feeding processed data into it. Data processing resulted in approximately 150 pages of narrative reports covering 10 European countries and 158 in-depth responses to the SSH Health Index survey. In October 2022, the working draft version of the webtool was finalised, to be hosted under <https://observer.cas.bg> (subdomain not yet active) and the remaining time was used to fine-tune the instrument. In separate sections, the webtool will provide prospective users with access to the qualitative data, quantitative data based on surveying local academic communities, in-depth information regarding the methodology, and information on all team members.

Due to the Covid pandemic, which prevented the series of seminars that were originally planned from happening, the financial report shows that a significant portion of the project's budget remains unspent. The remainder of the budget may hence fund the preparation of an application for regular funding of the initiative via a major European programme, such as Horizon Europe. This amount adds up to 27,830.00 EUR.

Ideally, using this leftover could help secure the sustainability of the whole initiative, thus turning it into a basis for a permanent "observatory" for the development of the social sciences and humanities. The current core team of local experts is confident that it has the potential to grow into an expanded network of co-researchers harvesting qualitative and quantitative data regarding the dynamic status of Europe's SSH. A functional initiative of this kind is believed to be well suited to provide not only regular periodic updates of the situation regarding academic policies and regulations that affect the prospects of SSH – but also, at some future point, suggest theoretical models and policy changes based on first-hand empirical data. Thus, stepping on the achievements of this pilot phase, the team of experts will submit a separate targeted request to SGCE for the utilization of the remaining funds.

II.3.2. Lost in Transition: Social Sciences, Scenarios of Transformation, and Cognitive Dissonances in East Central Europe after 1989 (2019-2023)

The project ended on 31 March 2023 and was funded by the *Porticus Foundation*. It sought to place the current anti-liberal and anti-democratic backlash in Eastern Europe into a comparative historical perspective. It raised 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 aimed at unravelling the various scenarios of postsocialist transition projected by local and external social scientists and experts and how these scenarios themselves became actors in the very process of transformation.

Despite the unexpected cut offs in the project's budget soon after its effective start in 2021, the LiT team managed to adapt its work so as to carry out the original academic agenda. Despite the considerably reduced fellowship grants, none of the selected 14 young scholars from Eastern Europe (doctoral and postdoctoral students) dropped out of the programme. Supervised by distinguished experts in various fields (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; Violetta Zentai, Central European University), throughout 2022 all individual researches were brought to successful end and extended written reports were submitted. The workflow was monitored through a series of internal seminars within each of the project subgroups plus one general workshop for all subgroups (24-25 November). On 3-4 March 2023, with the assistance of the CEU, CAS organised a final conference in Budapest. Prior to it, the research papers of all nineteen project participants were sent to six external experts, who were invited to attend the conference and review the research outcomes. At the present time, the project participants are finalizing their papers, a selection of which will be

made for a collective volume to be proposed for publication by a reputable publisher. The Porticus Foundation has given their permission for the unspent funds from this project's budget to go to the publication of this work. Concurrently, preparation of a Synergy grant application to the European Research Council is underway.

II.4. Applications approved, submitted or under preparation

II.4.1. Sustaining Ukrainian Scholarship (2023-2026)

This fellowship programme is a joint one between the *New Europe College*, Bucharest, and the Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia, to be executed in partnership with the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin's* VUIAS programme and is financed by VolkswagenStiftung as of a recent decision of its Board of Trustees.

It envisages awarding individual fellowships for promising scholars from the humanities and the social sciences from the regions affected by Russia's war against Ukraine. It builds on the two institutions' experience in working with fellows from the post-Soviet space and will benefit from the Ukrainian alumni network to generate applications and shape further action adapted to the needs and circumstances in the war-stricken country. While the general idea is to invite fellows for residencies of 5 to 10 months to Bucharest or Sofia, the support measures should be applied with a high degree of flexibility according to the situation of the chosen individual scholars. Two of the fellowships will be provided to the "incubation phase" of a future Institute for Advanced Study in Ukraine which is operated by the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*. The project is composed of three components. (1) With a focus on the present, it aims to offer bridging fellowships to Ukrainian refugee scholars whose funding by the Volkswagen Foundation will be running out this spring. (2) With a focus on return, it aims to offer fellowships and additional support for scholars from war-affected regions who apply with concrete plans to reintroduce scholarly training and learning, to revive research, and to rebuild infrastructure upon return to their home countries. (3) With a view to long-term development of scholarship throughout the region, it aims to offer fellowships and additional support for individual scholars or small teams who apply with projects that will create valuable and sustainable research resources and networks for the academic community in the adjacent countries and at large.

For the full application, see **AP ANNEX VI**.

II.4.2. Overcoming the aggressor. Self-perception and external perception of an actor between nations

Application for a project under this title was submitted by a small consortium of five scholars representing the University of Heidelberg (Prof. Dr Thomas Maissen), Institute for Social Movements, Bochum (Prof. Dr Stefan Berger), Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (Prof. Dr Diana Mishkova); University of Bologna (Ilaria Porciani); Central European University Democracy Institute, Budapest (Prof. Dr Balázs Trencsényi) to Daimler und Benz Stiftung.

Based on historical case studies, the planned project aims to comparatively research and systematise the perception and interpretation of concrete enemy actors as aggressors. It examines the aggressor not as an (international) legal actor, but as an ideal type and social figure who represents the hostile group in collective memory as an individual. Aggressors serve not only to demarcate between sovereign nation-states (as in the case of Serbia/Croatia), but also within a country as an indicator of past-political fault lines (as in the case of Spain/Catalonia). Their discursive construction and changing significance in the politics of memory are the subject of the project, which does not have to pass final judgement on aggressors in the sense of courts or truth commissions. Rather, the continuing potential for subjective outrage, demarcation and integration is a reason for the planned research project. The threat to one's freedom per se de-legitimises aggressors, the (temporary) defeat and

ultimately the victory over them form a fundamental historiographical narrative for all nations in their state development. Next to these, the planned studies will analyse and expose historical images and patterns of argumentation that hide or gloss over aggressions of one's own nation. This is particularly important at a time when populists want to make their homeland great (again), identifying the greatness projected into the past with foreign policy power. Last but not least, the project wants to show empirically tangible as well as theoretical and practical ways to "overcome" the aggressor in terms of politics of memory beyond the historical-political fixation on external images of the enemy.

Under the supervision of the above-mentioned scholars, nine junior researchers, doctoral and postdoctoral students, will contribute with extensive theses to the described research field. CAS will host one postdoctoral researcher, with €2,500 monthly stipend (including travel and administration), for a period of three years. The junior researchers will produce comparative monographic works and participate in regular virtual research seminars. Once a year, a workshop will be held with the leadership team and a group of around twenty designated senior scholars from various disciplinary fields and the regions dealt with. In addition, each of them will write an essay as a bi- or multinational case study for a broad anthology.

While this report was under writing, this application was approved.

II.4.3. The New Balkan Studies ERA Chair application of last year failed by a narrow margin, but will be resubmitted early next year – see **AP II.4.2.**

II.5. Other Academic Activities

Although public events and gatherings were still hindered by the pandemic restrictions in the past year, CAS nevertheless has been gradually returning to its regular schedule of academic activities since the spring and has hosted several events with a considerable participation as part of the various Discussion series (see II.5.4.)

II.5.1. Roundtable “Avenues of Cooperation: Ideas for Overcoming the Macedonian-Bulgarian Impasse”

On 11 March 2022 the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia and the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje (ISSHS) organised a roundtable on the topic *“Avenues of cooperation: Ideas for overcoming the Macedonian-Bulgarian impasse”* with the following two lectures.

- Prof. Dr Katerina Kolozova (Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje, North Macedonia) - *“Why is the definition of dispute as a cultural conflict important?”*
- Assoc. Prof. Stefan Detchev (Southwestern University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad, and Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria) - *“How to talk about history without deepening the conflict?”*

II.5.2. Swiss Confederation's Excellence Scholarships

Each year the Swiss Confederation awards Government Excellence Scholarships to promote international exchange and research cooperation between Switzerland and over 180 other countries. These scholarships are aimed at (i) young researchers from abroad, who have completed a master's degree or PhD and, (ii) foreign artists holding a bachelor's degree. In Bulgaria the programme, including promotion and initial evaluation of received applications, is implemented jointly by the Swiss Embassy in Sofia and CAS. Applications are screened by the CAS Academic Associates and invited experts coming from the discipline/field of the respective candidate. In the 2022 selection round, the CAS evaluation panel selected for the second evaluation stage one candidate. In March we received confirmation that the Bulgarian applicant for a MA scholarship in the Arts was approved and will receive Swiss governmental support in the academic 2023-2024.

II.5.3. Advanced Academia Public Lectures 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. These events had gained much popularity and attention by scholars from various universities, academy institutes and other scientific organisations.

The public lectures for 2022 were resumed on 2 November and took place every second Wednesday at the American Corner of Sofia City Library until 14 December. So far in 2023 4 lectures were held, starting 1 February 2023 and again run every second Wednesday.

For the full calendar of the 2022/2023 Public Lectures see **AR ANNEX VI**.

II.5.4. CAS Discussion Series

Under this rubric CAS' academic associates or former fellows organise discussions clubs on themes of broader contemporary relevance or underexplored new fields. Typically, they are addressed to the Bulgarian public and are held in Bulgarian, except in cases of invited foreign lecturers and when CAS foreign fellows are attending. Although CAS does not have special funds for the series, they do not weigh on its institutional budget either, as the conveners themselves, former CAS fellows and/or Academic associates, are initiating and coordinating them.

II.5.4.1. Forms of Ownership – Property in Communist Bulgaria

In late 2020 CAS initiated a new series of workshops under the above title, which aimed at presenting different forms of ownership that were legally allowed or tolerated in communist Bulgaria. The series continued throughout 2022 with monthly seminars (with some exceptions), coordinated by Stoyan Stavru (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, BAS) and Roumen Avramov (CAS). All seminars have been convened through the online Zoom platform. A total of 15 topics were presented by prominent speakers from different fields of study, the following having taken place in the past year:

- Assoc. Prof. Petar Parvanov (Southwestern University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria) - *“Copyright Law During Socialism”* - 14 January 2022
- Adv. Bistra Gospodinova - *“Property Confiscation as a Form of Repression under the Socialist State”* - 25 February 2022
- Assoc. Prof. Petya Slavova (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria) - *“The Multiple Significations and Uses of Property as an Instrument for the Exercise of Power: On the Example of the Foreign Trade Enterprise ‘Texim – Imextracom’”* - 25 March 2022
- Assoc. Prof. Galina Goncharova (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria) - *“The Loss and Redistribution of Ownership Through Biographical Interviews (at the Beginning of the Regime)”* - 3 June 2022

For the time being, no further seminars are being envisaged under this Discussion series.

II.5.4.2. Why Byzantium?

This discussion series, convened by former CAS fellow Assoc. Prof. Ivan Biliarski and hosted by the Centre for Advanced Study, deals with the influence and legacy of the Eastern Roman Empire, which withstood multiple waves of barbarian invasions and lasted more than a millennium after the fall of its western half. Apart from being an Empire, Byzantium was a cultural and historical community of enormous influence that carried the Hellenic, Hellenistic and Roman heritage or inheritances, in their Christian form, into all spheres of its existence, transmitted them to other populations and continued to live long after its fall under the Ottoman Sultans. This influence took on a strongly identitarian character – recognized or not – for many peoples, states and social establishments. The key question this discussion series will address concerns the way Byzantium comes to be perceived, studied,

appreciated and understood. At the centre of interest is the perception and conceptualization of the phenomenon of “Byzantium”, and not so much the phenomenon itself. This is achieved through various paths, only one of which is historiography. In addition to historians, the discussion series is addressed to representatives of various disciplines with an interest in the Middle Ages, the Modern Period or Late Antiquity – literary scholars, linguists, art historians, archaeologists.

To this broad field the following speakers have so far contributed with presentations:

- Dr Delyan Rusev (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria) - “The Weighty Heritage of Rum: Byzantium and Medieval Bulgaria in Early Ottoman Historical Writing” - 14 March 2022
- Prof. Elena Boeck (DePaul University, Chicago, USA) - “Mobile Memories: the Boat of Aeneas and the Palladion between Two Romes” - 11 May 2022
- Prof. Vlada Stanković (University of Belgrade, Serbia) - “The Enduring Problems with the ‘Brand’ Byzantium: Thoughts on the Empire and Its Scholarship” - 31 January 2022

II.5.4.3. Economic (Social) Bulgaria: The Future through the Culture of the Past

After a nine-year break, the seminar *Economic (Social) Bulgaria: The Future Through the Culture of the Past* was reinstated on January 17, 2023 on the initiative of Assoc. Prof. Martin Ivanov (Sofia University, CAS Academic Associate) and Dr Roumen Avramov (Member of CAS Academic Council).

Organised during 2004-2014 by the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Sofia) at The Red House Centre for Culture and Debate “Andrey Nikolov”, the seminar became a venue for vibrant academic discussions and home to a distinctive intellectual community. It held 132 sessions with 107 lecturers from Bulgaria and eight other countries, affiliated to 45 (including 17 foreign) research institutions.

The Centre for Advanced Study Sofia decided to support and to host, on a monthly basis, a new edition of the seminar. As previously, it will be moderated by Martin Ivanov and Roumen Avramov. They intend to keep the original goals and format, namely, to foster the interest in the economic and social past of Bulgaria; to cover a vast range of topicalities and historical periods; to provide an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional platform to scholars from the humanities and the social sciences; to involve, to the extent possible, foreign academics into the ongoing national debates.

Thus far the reinstated seminar has had four sessions:

- Prof. Daniel Vachkov (Institute of History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) on “*The Economic Price of “Second (Soviet) Liberation”*” – 17 January 2023
- Prof. Pencho Penchev (University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria) - “*On the Harm of Education*” - 22 February 2023
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Nikolay Todorov (Director of the Regional Museum of History in Silistra, Bulgaria) - “*The Shepherd Aristocracy*” - 14 March 2023
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Stefan Detchev (Southwestern University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria) - “From ‘Local’ to ‘National’ Cuisine: The Formation of Bulgarian National Cuisine – Resources, Stages, Means, Achievements” - 11 April 2023

II.5.4.4. Religion and Culture

The *Religion and Culture* Discussion Series is the continuation of the eponymous seminar, initiated by Prof. Simeon Evstatiev within the Center for the Study of Religion (CSR) of Sofia University in 2009. Its relaunching, with CAS as the host in collaboration with CRS, took place on 25 October 2022. The topic chosen for the 2022/2023 academic year is “Centre and Periphery in Religion and Society”.

So far, a total of 2 topics have been presented by prominent speakers:

- Prof. Dale F. Eickelman (Dartmouth College, USA) - “*Center and Periphery in Religion and Society*” - 25 October 2022
- Dr Iliya Iliev (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria) - “*The Mystique of the Ancient Thracians – Internal and External Audiences in the 1970s*” - 27 January 2023

II.6. Publications resulting from CAS projects and discussion series

II.6.1. CAS Sofia Working Paper Series

Up to now the research results of Bulgarian and international Fellows were published in electronic form in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) as *CAS Sofia Working Paper Series*. After almost two years of suspension due to the lack of institutional resources for the language editing of the texts, the publication of the Series was resumed in 2021/2022. Currently we are preparing No. 13 of the series, which is expected to come out in May 2023. In funding language editing of the CAS Working Paper Series, we still rely on an allocation from the Gerda Henkel grant.

Starting in January 2023, CAS Sofia Working Paper Series (ISSN: 2683-1341) is a fully Open Access journal, available via the Central and Eastern European Online Library (<https://www.ceeol.com>).

III. CAS LIBRARY

III.1. Development of book collections

The CAS Library follows consistent, efficient and financially sound collection development policies. The library uses both locally held information resources as well as resources from other organisations. Acquisitions are made in several ways: donations, purchase and exchange. The donations come from current CAS fellows, CAS alumni and associates. During 2022 the library has enriched its collection with 55 new books on various topics in the sphere of the humanities and social sciences.

III.2. Library services

III.2.1. Cooperation with Panitza Library of AUBG

CAS Library’s cooperation with the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) continues to prove especially valuable because of the guaranteed 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.

III.2.2. 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.

III.2.3. 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 searches in the available databases and sends the articles to the users, thus saving them a visit to the premises of the library.

III.2.4. New library tools

In 2022 a new generation library software was introduced into the CAS library services. This new software enhances the cataloguing, registration and inventory, and provides new capabilities for statistical analysis of the library-related services.

IV. CAS VISIBILITY, NETWORKING, DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Throughout the years of its existence CAS always tried to develop its own independent media channels for presenting the results of its activities and projects. Whenever it was possible and the funding scheme allowed it, our team created or commissioned the development of project focused web-pages and communication portals. Two such examples are the Bulgarian PhD Students database (<https://phdgate.net>) and the CAS Academic Gateway in the Humanities (<https://gate.cas.bg>), created more than 15 years ago. Although these two platforms are already outdated in terms of technology, we are still able to use their email databases (more than 2,000 emails) to outreach the academic community in Bulgaria. In recent years we rely not so much on their built-in tools for dissemination as on more adequate outsourced channels like Mailchimp. While initially created with project-based funding, PhDGate and the CAS Academic Portal are maintained and sustained through the institutional funds of CAS.

Another example for long-term investment in this sphere is the Portal “Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings” (<http://www.red.cas.bg>). The database contains a regularly updated bibliography classified according to different topics and genres (1182 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The annual number of unique visits for 2022 amounts to 765, while 7,689 pages were viewed. This online project is supported via CAS’ institutional funds.

More recent illustration of CAS outreach to the digital world is the “How to Teach Europe” (<https://research-to-teach.eu/>) platform which makes accessible the achievements of CAS-NEC’s joint effort through open access curriculum depository to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from first-rate research into teaching. For 2022 statistics show that we have attracted 5,494 unique visits and 3.5 GB traffic, while almost 20,000 pages were viewed.

Another attestation of CAS’ policy in this direction (securing independent communication channels) is our recently upgraded institutional website. In 2022 <https://cas.bg/> has 32,312 unique visitors and 286,537 unique page hits. The amount of information which was transferred to users is 122.64 GB.

CAS Sofia Working Paper Series, which is released on the Central European Online Library, ensures international visibility for the research carried out at CAS and, as mentioned previously, is now fully Open Access.

Next to its electronic channels, CAS keeps insisting on the value of disseminating printed publications, particularly of the research resulting from collective projects. The bulk of the costs for language editing, layout and printing are covered by the institutional funding.

CAS-related scholars also publish monographs, research articles and policy papers, often in connection with research projects, acknowledging the Centre’s contribution.

In the past few years, CAS has been distributing its yearly Newsletter mainly electronically, with only a limited number of copies in printed form. The electronic version of the newsletter is also accessible on the CAS webpage.

Another way of circulating information about the Centre’s events (public lectures, guest lectures, etc.) is the CAS Facebook profile. CAS has been using this social media platform for the past eight years

and it continually enjoys attention by former Fellows, both Bulgarian and foreign, and other scholars and students across the country. Moreover, it has proven to be an effective tool to target and reach out to scholars and candidates for the Fellowship programmes. Currently, CAS has over 700 friends and followers on Facebook.

Another valuable tool for publicising and advertising the intellectual output of CAS are the already mentioned Advanced Academia Public Lectures. Throughout the years this series has become popular with its audience, attracting attendees from various academia in Sofia and evoking an active response from the guests. The lectures were resumed in the fall of 2022 and will continue to happen regularly throughout 2023 as well.

CAS Sofia,
12 April 2023