

Diana Mishkova

Director

April 2013

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA
2012 ANNUAL REPORT

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Personnel

I.1.1. Academic personnel

In 2012 CAS Sofia was pleased to welcome the two new members of the CAS Academic Advisory Council, who were selected by electronic vote following the last Board meeting - Prof. Leyla Neyzi (Social Sciences, Sabanci University, Turkey) and Dr. Lea Ypi (Political Sciences, London School of Economics, UK). Since 1 January 2013 Assoc. Prof. Roumen Avramov (Economic History; Economy) has been appointed as CAS Permanent Fellow, pending the formal decision by the CAS Board. As of today the composition of the permanent academic personnel of CAS includes five Academic Associates: Prof. Pepka Boyadjieva (Sociology), Assoc. Prof. Georgi Ganev (Economy), Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva (Anthropology), Assoc. Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (History) and Assoc. Prof. Diana Mishkova (History).

I.2.1. Administrative personnel

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

I.3. Financial data

Total	€ 338.162
Research Expenses	€ 231.095
Institutional Expenses	€ 107.067

I.4. Fundraising strategy

At the last year's CAS Board of Trustees meeting, it was decided that CAS Director should be empowered to undertake the first steps for starting a fundraising campaign for CAS. Pursuing this task, CAS Director initiated a series of meetings with Valery Dimitrov, Martin Zaimov, and Roumen Avramov. Martin Zaimov and Valery Dimitrov had contacted a number of prospective Bulgarian donors, banks and private entrepreneurs. The result of these talks will be presented at the meeting of Board.

I.5. CAS Guesthouse

At the meeting CAS Director will inform the Board members about the current state of the negotiations with the America for Bulgaria Foundation on the issue of securing a bigger working and housing space for the Centre. The last hour of the Board meeting will be devoted to talks with representatives of the Foundation and its Board of Directors on this issue.

I.6. Partnerships and cooperation

In the course of 2012/2013 CAS continued its collaboration with a number of local and international institutions, among them: Sofia University, the New Bulgarian University, the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Sofia), the Central European University (Budapest), EURIAS (especially New Europe College in Bucharest; IWM in Vienna) and the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). Prof. Martin Müller is now effectively maintaining the connection between CAS and the University of St. Gallen by serving as a member of the CAS Academic Advisory Council and a fellow in the *European Regions and Boundaries project*. The long-term institutional partnership with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin continues to be a fundamental element of CAS' institutional sustainability. In 2012 CAS continued the beneficial collaboration with the America for Bulgaria Foundation (AFB). At the beginning of 2013 CAS Sofia also signed a memorandum of cooperation with the American University in Bulgaria. (Please, see next section)

I.6.1 Memorandum of Cooperation between the American University in Bulgaria and CAS Sofia

CAS Director and the President of the American University in Bulgaria (AUB), Mr. Michael Easton, signed a five-year memorandum of cooperation, whereby both institutions agreed upon: electronic database and book exchange between CAS Sofia and AUBG; CAS fellows will be invited to present their research in a seminar format to the the AUBG academic community; opportunities for AUB faculty to spend short research leaves at CAS Sofia will be pursued. This agreement was consulted with and endorsed by the CAS Board Chairman Prof. Luca Giuliani.

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2012/2013 CAS hosted **18 Research Fellows from 6 countries in the framework of 2 programmes and projects**. Another **19 researchers** have been involved in the project *European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*, and 16 associate researchers working under the *Negotiating Modernity* project.

II. 2. On-going projects

II.2.1. Advanced Academia Programme

The programme provides individual fellowships for Bulgarian and international scholars from the humanities and the social sciences. Since its beginning in 2009, with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, CAS has granted fellowships to 34 young and established Bulgarian scholars. Since 2011, with the assistance of the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus Foundation)*, the programme has opened to international fellows, and eight foreign fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled in the programme during 2011-2013. The invited Fellows participate in the intellectual life and the scholarly community of the Centre while working on projects of their own choice. They take part in the weekly Fellow seminars, where they present and discuss their individual projects, and in the scholarly events organized by CAS. Due to the fact that CAS is still in no position to provide its Fellows with a place for working and living together, it is seeking to complement the academic programme with various non-formal and community-building activities, such as weekly fellow dinners, outings, and cultural events, thus creating opportunities for informal communication.

Until 2013, the number of Bulgarian and International researchers, due to the relatively lesser opportunities provided by the funding for the latter group, remained imbalanced. This discrepancy was not a favourable condition for creating efficient and fruitful exchange between international and local scholars – an exchange which lies at the core of CAS' efforts to impose better standards of research and promote intellectual communication across national and cultural borders. It was obvious to us and to our international fellows that a more productive and stimulating environment could be achieved by increasing the number of foreign researchers. To this end CAS submitted an application to, and received the approval for an additional funding from the *Fritz Thyssen Foundation* thereby doubling its capacities to host international scholars in Sofia. From March 2013 CAS is able to increase the number of international fellowships from an average 4 to an average 8 (depending on the duration of the fellowships).

In view of the success and the growing popularity of the Advanced Academia fellowship programme among Bulgarian academics, in 2012 CAS Sofia submitted to the America for Bulgaria Foundation an application for the extension of the programme with three more years. Based on the favourable evaluation of the implementation and the development of the programme so far, the America for Bulgaria Foundation has agreed to extend the project **until February 2016**, thus providing the necessary funding for running the programme until 2016 and ensuring the scholarships for 24 young and established Bulgarian researchers. In addition to the extended project duration, CAS Sofia also negotiated a significant increase in the project financial resources which will be used for the publication of the Bulgarian fellows' research results.

The selection of Fellows is carried out on the basis of two major criteria: 1) the scholarly excellence and intellectual promise of the candidate and, 2) the quality of the research proposal (especially: innovativeness; expected contribution; interdisciplinary and/or comparative approach), while pursuing an optimal composition of the Fellow groups.

2012-2013 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) was published and widely distributed electronically in March 2012 with a deadline 1 October 2012. The call yielded a total of 31 applications by Bulgarian scholars, and 129 applications by international scholars from over 30 countries and six continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North

and South America, Australia and New Zealand). Among those, the Academic Advisory Council selected 8 Bulgarian and 8 international Fellows for 2013/2014. The new group of CAS Fellows came together for the first time on 4 March 2013. At the opening meeting the Fellows were introduced to the philosophy and the mode of operation of the programme, and a schedule for the Fellow seminars and other events was worked out.

Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series: As each year in March, CAS opened the third season of its *Advanced Academia Public Lectures* series aimed at presenting to a wider academic and interested audience the results from the research of the 2012-2013 Advanced Academia Fellows. The first five lectures from the series elicited considerable interest, gathering large audiences from various academic fields and institutions. By making this lecture series a regular yearly event CAS seeks to increase the local visibility of both the CAS Fellows' work and the Centre itself.

Other related outcomes: As an evidence for the intellectual dynamics generated by the Fellow exchange, we would mention the collective volume *The (Un)Established Rule of Law in Bulgaria* (September 2012, CAS/RIVA Publ.), edited by former CAS Fellow Dr. Ivo Hristov, as part of *CAS Research Forums Series*.

II.5.1. Publications resulting from CAS projects or discussion series.)

Another book, which was published in February 2013 as part of the *CAS Research Forum Series* was Prof. Ivan Elenkov's study "*Labour, Joy, Recreation and Culture. Studies under the Advanced Academia Programme of the Centre for Advanced Study*". This publication is the result of the decision of the Academic Council to award with publication one of the projects under the Advanced Academia Programme, which had served as a basis for and had been developed into a monograph. (Please, see also ***II.5.2. Publications resulting from CAS projects or discussion series***)

Attending activities and events within the Advanced Academia Programme: Following the recommendation made in the *Evaluation Report on the Centre for Advanced Study* (prepared by Prof. Oliver Schmitt and Dr. Silvana Galassi) that the foreign Fellows should be given the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge of Bulgarian language, CAS has organized Bulgarian language courses for them. So far this idea has been met with great enthusiasm by CAS international fellows. Currently all of them attend the Bulgarian language course which is held twice a week at the Centre's office.

In the pursuit of opportunities to facilitate and stimulate the intellectual socialization among the Fellows, CAS initiates social and cultural events, such as outings to the countryside, screening of feature and documentary films in the CAS conference room. In the October 2012 CAS organized an excursion to the old town of Plovdiv and the Bachkovo monastery. In 2013 CAS starts screening movies selected by the Fellows themselves. The first performance was on 4 April of the highly acclaimed Bulgarian movie "Eastern Plays" and, judging from the reaction of the Fellows, such screening events will become regular.

II.2.2. Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe – Interim Progress

In 2013 the Negotiating Modernity Project funded by the European Research Council entered its final year. The Project seeks to map the history of East Central European political

thought from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first century. In 2012 the Principal Investigator Dr. Balázs Trencsényi and the project team finalized the core research part of the project work and prepared a major part of the manuscript of the envisaged two collective volumes.

Six Core Group meetings took place in Budapest, Sarajevo, Tirana, Lviv and Florence, respectively in January, March, May, August and November of 2012. Within the framework of these Core Group meetings several workshops took place, dedicated to different thematic foci – Bosnian, Albanian and Ukrainian political thought in the 19th and 20th centuries; new perspectives on the history of modern political thought; contemporary currents (post-1989), etc. These workshops provided the project members with the opportunity to discuss in depth the manuscript under preparation and to receive feedback from external experts who were invited to take part in the workshops. Currently the Principal Investigator is negotiating the publication of the planned synthetic volumes with several high-profile publishers.

During the last months of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 the researchers focused on the improvement and editing of the final chapters, as well as on increasing the visibility of their work and its outcomes. To this end, two consecutive conferences took place at CAS in Sofia on 17-21 January and 15-18 March 2013. The November 2012 conference in Florence and the March 2013 conference in Sofia were addressed to a broader international academic community as well. A number of renowned scholars from the US, Canada, UK, the Netherlands and Germany were invited to participate in both events as commentators of sections of the monumental manuscript. The overall evaluation of the experts for the work of the junior research team was emphatically positive.

II.2.2. Amendment to the Grant Agreement as a result of the ERC audit conclusions

In spite of the contentions made by CAS Sofia in 2012 in response to the final draft audit report on the Negotiating Modernity project, the ERCEA endorsed the conclusions made in the report and insisted that certain amendments should be introduced into the existing Grant Agreement, as a precondition for continuing its support for the project. The amendment to the Grant Agreement was a subject of prolonged and minute discussions and negotiations between the ERCEA and CAS for a period of over six months. The amendment to the grant was finally agreed upon in December 2012, which ensured the conditions for a successful completion of the project. The amended Grant Agreement extended the project duration by 1 month, until the end of April 2013. It also created a modified scheme for calculating the working time and the remuneration of the participating researchers in line with the new ERC rules. This was the most difficult point to negotiate with the ERCEA officials, taking into account the prerequisites of the research and the obligations of the participating scholars to the institutions of their permanent affiliation.

II.2.3. European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History (2012 – 2013)

European Regions and Boundaries: A Conceptual History is a two-year interdisciplinary and comparative research project, based on a focus-group investigation and aimed at a joint publication elaborating on the conceptualisations of the European regions and boundaries by a wide range of social and human sciences. A key objective of the project is to go beyond the usual discussions on the heuristics of historical regions and expand the toolkit of conceptual history by not just following a conceptual itinerary per se, but contextualizing this itinerary

in terms of the changing political, cultural and especially disciplinary contexts. This would help "temporalize" the spatial terminology implied in the social sciences, and in turn, analyse the ways historical change is encapsulated by spatial categories.

During the project implementation the participants are working individually on their chapters, but regular meetings (at least twice a year) of the whole team are vital for ensuring the coherence of the planned volume and the comparative trans-regional perspective. The research team is constituted by established scholars whose expertise represents various disciplines, historical schools, and regions. Two exploratory meetings were organized prior to the project approval, in November 2010 and April 2011.

The first working meeting under the project took place on March 23-24, 2012 at CAS Sofia when the participants made brief presentations (including a preliminary sketch of the most interesting turns in the history of conceptualizing the given region(s) and discipline(s) as well as preliminary bibliographies of primary and secondary sources) and important methodological and organizational issues were discussed. It was agreed that all gathered materials (bibliographies and sources) would be made available via a password protected project site, thus creating a common textual corpus accessible to the whole group in order to facilitate communication and comparison. In April 2012 this web-page (<http://regions.cas.bg>) was installed and ready for use. Currently it contains nearly 90 scanned texts and articles covering different regions and disciplines.

The second working session, following the time-table of the project, took place on January 11-12, 2013. The project team was extended with three newly invited scholars filling some thematic gaps in the disciplinary module of the programme. The next interim meeting is scheduled for 7-8 September 2013 when the team will again overview the work progress of the involved scholars. The research assistants whose task is to collect and systematize materials upon specific requests by the project members will be also present.

At the end of January or early February 2014 an Editorial meeting will be held: by that time all participants should have prepared advanced drafts of their chapters. The collective volume will be published as part of the European Conceptual History book series by Berghahn Publishers.

II.3. Newly launched projects

II.3.1 EUBORDERSCAPES

EUBORDERSCAPES (*Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World*) is a large-scale international research project that investigates and interprets conceptual change in the study of borders, in relation to the fundamental social, economic, cultural and geopolitical transformations that have taken place in the past decades. The research will focus not only on the more general level of conceptual change, but it will also try to draw a comparison between different conceptualisations of state borders (in terms of their political, social, cultural and symbolic significance) and describe how they resonate in concrete contexts at the level of everyday life.

EUBORDERSCAPES will study the evolving concepts of borders in two ways: 1) as an important reflection of political, social and cultural change and 2) as an indicator of possible

responses to this change. Drawing from various sources, such as key academic debates, political discourses, ethnographic research, media representations and shifting cultural understandings of the construction of national borders, the project aims to shed light on tensions between national understandings in terms of demarcations based on ethnicity, citizenship, language and socio-cultural characteristics; and broader supranational/transnational understandings which address borders as areas of contact between civilisations, religious and cultural spheres. In doing so, the project will also attempt to illuminate the consequences of restrictive and securitised border regimes for interstate and intercultural dialogue. This approach emphasizes the social significance and subjectivities of state borders while critically interrogating “objective” categories of state territoriality and international relations.

II.3.2. RAGE

RAGE (*Hate Speech and Populist Othering in Europe: through the Racism, Age, Gender Looking Glass*) is a comparative research project funded by the European Commission’s Directorate General Justice, under the Scientific Programme “Fundamental Rights and Citizenship”. The project examines populist political discourse and its effect on those “othered” by such discourse, particularly in the context of economic austerity and dwindling opportunities for young people. Eight academic institutions covering nine EU member states (UK, France, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Denmark, Austria, Finland and Slovenia) participate in the project consortium.

The research work takes for its starting point contemporary debates on “hate speech and behaviour” and will further focus on particular movements, groups or political parties in the respective countries, and the opposing organisations that are the protagonists of such debate. It will examine the definition, production and perception of “hate speech” and “hate crime”, and how young people in Europe engage with, or oppose these politics and actions. Through engagement with civil society organisations the researchers will also study the effects of such populism, and the discourses of those who seek to challenge “populist othering”.

The project will be developed through three interlocking work-streams, implemented through an integrated multi-method approach (content analysis of on-line sources, digital ethnography, participant-observation and biographical interviews). Furthermore, round tables and conferences will be organized within the framework of the project, in order to make a larger impact on civil society by addressing the sources of “othering” speech (racist, xenophobic or homophobic) in terms of societal trends, political action and communication, generational problems and subjective perceptions.

II.4. Other academic activities

II.4.1. Seminars by guest professors

II.4.2. “The Future of Deconstruction”

On 4 May 2012 CAS Sofia hosted a seminar by Prof. Tilottama Rajan on the topic “*The Future of Deconstruction*”. Prof. Rajan is Director of the Centre for Theory and Criticism, Research Chair in English and Theory and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. In her lecture Prof. Rajan focused on the interaction between Romantic literature and theory, combining practical analysis and meta-theory.

II.4.3. "Can a Non-Extant District be a Heritage Place?"

On 25 February 2013 CAS welcomed Dr. Ewa Klekot, a promising young scholar from Poland, for her well attended seminar on "*Can a Non-Extant District be a Heritage Place?*". Dr. Klekot's (cultural anthropology) is lecturer at the Warsaw University and the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. The seminar offered an anthropological investigation of two central districts of Warsaw built on the area of the former Ghetto of Warsaw. It discussed the ways material heritage is constituted and reflected upon oblivion and memory of the Warsaw Jewish past and the on-going 'heritagization' of sites and architecture.

II.5. CAS Discussion Series

II.5.1 Existential Socialism (Love under Socialism) Workshop Series

The newly launched discussion series "*Love under Socialism*" is a continuation of the highly acclaimed workshops on "Death under Socialism" (2011-2012). The second round of workshops "*Love under Socialism*" was set off at the beginning of 2013 and is intended to take place in five consecutive sessions on a monthly basis from January through May. Each of the workshops includes at least four presentations by both prominent and early-stage Bulgarian scholars coming from different universities or institutions across the country, as well as different disciplinary backgrounds, such as sociology, history, anthropology, literary cultural studies, psychology and medicine. So far, the discussions have evoked strong interest and have attracted a large number of attendants - most of the workshops involve over 40 participants from the Sofia academia. A collective volume under the *CAS Research Forum publication series*, gathering the best contributions to the seminar is envisaged as an outcome of these discussion series. The new volume is expected to be published by mid-2013 by CAS/RIVA Publishers and is currently being edited by CAS Academic Associate Dr. Daniela Koleva, who is the workshop moderator and one of the prime driving forces behind this initiative.

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

II.6.1. New Graphic Design

Following one of the recommendations of the *Evaluation Report on the Centre for Advanced Study*, CAS elaborated a new graphic design for its publications. It is our belief that the new concept of a standardized graphic design would make our publications more recognizable in terms of layout, style and, hopefully, quality.

II.6.2. The (Un)Established Rule of Law in Bulgaria

The volume under the title "*The (Un)Established Rule of Law in Bulgaria*" was published by the CAS/RIVA Publishers in September 2012 as part of the *CAS Research Forum series*. This volume came as a result of the CAS Discussion Series "Consolidation/Disintegration of Public Institutions and Political Process", (2010-2011). The volume is genealogically related to a recently completed CAS international project, "Shaken Order: Authority and Social Trust in Post-Communist Societies – Case Studies in Law". The volume includes papers by: Dr Ivo Hristov (Plovdiv University), editor of the volume and project convenor of the

Shaken Order Project and the *Consolidation/Disintegration Discussion Series*, CAS' former Fellows Petya Kabakchieva (Sofia University), Atanas Slavov (Sofia University), Martin Kanushev (New Bulgarian University), Daniel Smilov (Sofia University), Ivan Bilyarski (Institute of History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, presently a CAS Fellow), Venelin Ganev (Department of Political Science, Miami University, USA), Linka Toneva (Sofia University), and Diana Mishkova (CAS).

II.6.3. Labour, Joy, Recreation and Culture

The book "Labour, Joy, Leisure and Culture" contains two studies by Prof. Ivan Elenkov that were elaborated during his work under the Advanced Academia Programme. The first study follows the activities of state-run *Labour and Joy* Unit between 1941 and 1944, and the metamorphoses of its successor in 1945 – *Recreation and Culture for the Workers* Unit, established within the *Fatherland Front* political coalition, and subsequently closed down at the beginning of 1948. The study analyzes the period preceding and immediately after 1944 when the first state-run projects were launched to organize the leisure time of the working class and the social mobilization of broad marginalized social layers. Prof. Elenkov also offers a critical analysis on the deconstruction of the social structure and the obliteration of the principles of social policy in the first half of the twentieth century. The second study focuses on a cultural phenomenon of the same era – the so called *Cultural Calendar* – considering its main function to centralize processes of cultural exchange in socialist Bulgaria. A common thread linking the two studies is the ideological modelling of everyday life in the Communist era in Bulgaria.

II.6.4. "Bulgarian Communism – Debates and Interpretations"

This collection compiles research materials that came as a result from a round table discussion titled *Bulgarian Communism - Two Decades Later* (2011) which was organized by NGOs and representatives of the academic circles in Bulgaria. The research papers are dedicated to the current state of research and the public reflection on the communist regime in Bulgaria after its collapse. The book, containing a selection of the research studies, was edited by Mihail Gruev and Diana Mishkova and was submitted for publication at the CAS/Riva Publishers. It combines not only historical, but also anthropological, sociological and cultural research studies. In practice, it largely reflects different standpoints on the problem and represents the further development of the scientific debate and provides for a more general historical discussion on thinking about the communist past and how it permeates the present. Being provoked by the impression shared among professional historians and public activists that, twenty years later, Bulgarian society is still infused with nostalgia for state socialism, this book intends to discuss not only the historical but also the ethical implications of this phenomenon. The volume comprises the studies of the following authors: Alexander Vezekov (New Bulgarian University), Boyko Kiriakov (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Daniela Koleva (Sofia University and CAS Academic Associate), Daniel Vatchkov (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Evgenia Ivanova (New Bulgarian University), Evelina Kelbecheva (American University in Bulgaria), Emilia Zankina (American University in Bulgaria), Mihail Gruev (Sofia University), Momchil Metodiev (editor of *Christianity and Culture* monthly), Pepka Boyadjieva (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and CAS Academic Associate), Petya Kabakchieva (Sofia University), Diana Mishkova (CAS) and Roumen Avramov (CAS).

II.7. Public events

II.7.1. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series

Public lectures are an important element of the Advanced Academia project, as they significantly contribute to increasing the visibility of the Centre and of its Fellows' researches. The series of public lectures provide a valuable forum especially for younger scholars to bring their questions and accomplishments to a wide and diverse audience, thus contributing to the visibility of their work and career growth. This year the Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series was launched on 5 March and is being held on a weekly basis (every Tuesday, at 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through May. So far the Advanced Academia Public Lectures Series has enjoyed great popularity and turned out to be a major success – each lecture attracts audiences of over 50 people representing a broad array of academics coming from all universities, human and social-science institutes and other research institutions in Sofia.

II.7.2. Book Launch

The (Un)Established Rule of Law in Bulgaria

On 13 November 2012 CAS Sofia hosted the presentation of the book: *The (Un)Established Rule of Law in Bulgaria*, edited by CAS Fellow Dr. Ivo Hristov (Plovdiv University). The presentation was moderated by Prof. Georgi Kapriev (Sofia University) and Prof. Mihail Nedelchev (New Bulgarian University), who stressed the practical manifestations of the problem under examination both at the political level and in everyday life. It is obvious that behind the specifics of the current situation lies a deep and fundamental social problem that cannot be understood or interpreted only by the resources of everyday consciousness but demands a thorough socio-historical scientific reflection. The book launch evoked considerable public interest among the academics who attended the event. Most of the attendants were scholars from the law faculties of the Sofia University, Plovdiv University, New Bulgarian University and representatives from the Open Society Institute in Sofia.

II.8. CAS Library

II.8.1. Development of book collections

CAS Library has a well established tradition of collecting books under already started CAS projects. Thus within the framework of the project Advanced Academia CAS Library has ran orders for books and has enriched its collections of monographs in the thematic filed of history and social sciences. CAS fellows and associates also donated considerable number of their publications. Among the newly acquired titles are: “*Democracy in What State?*” by Giorgio Agamben, “*Cosmopolitanism*” by Carol A. Breckenri, “*Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*” by Wendy Brown, “*Byzantium Rediscovered*” by J.B. Bullen, “*The Balkans And The Near East: Introduction To A Shared History*” by Karl Kaser, etc. Besides purchasing books another means for the development of CAS Library collections is through exchange. Through purchases, donations and exchange altogether the Library acquired **123 books** in the field of social sciences.

II.8.2.Databases

During the last several years CAS library has started offering access to electronic online collections, which proved to be a very useful and successful service. During the year 2012 CAS Library provided free access to the following databases: JSTOR, EBSCO, Questia, ACLS Humanities E-Book. As usual they were the most often consulted resources of the Library. The usage statistics proves this fact eloquently. For example, the database Questia was consulted by CAS Library users **4329 times** during the year 2012 and the database EBSCO **1330 times**.

The subscription of databases for the year 2012 was secured thanks to a donation amounting to 5000 Euros made by Stifterverband. The restricted financial resources for subscription of new databases, however, are a persistent problem. Due to the lack of enough financial resources CAS Library wasn't able to prolong its subscription for the following databases: SAGE, Encyclopedia Britannica Online Academic and Voprosy Istorii. It is highly recommended, however, securing additional amount of money for the database subscription, since this is of crucial importance for providing access to most recent, comprehensive, and high-quality electronic publications.

CAS Library tries to compensate the impossibility to subscribe a wide range of expensive databases by gaining free trials to many of them.

Free trials were gained for the following databases:

- EBSCO eBook Collection

One single platform for EBSCO's extensive collection of more than 265,000 eBook titles

- Brill E-Books collection

As a leading international academic publisher in the Humanities and Social Sciences Brill has introduced its E-book collections, which are divided into seven broad subject categories: Asian Studies, Biblical Studies, Ancient Near East and Early Christianity, Classical Studies, European History and Culture, Language and Linguistics, Middle East and Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, Theology and Philosophy, Social Sciences.

- SAGE Knowledge Beta

A social science eBook platform, which offers more than 2,500 titles plus titles, including key reference works, scholarly monographs, series, dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks and professional development titles

- Online Books

Offers a number of eBooks and Audio Books in the field of Politics and Social Sciences

Possible sharing of the expenses for new databases is envisaged in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the American University in Bulgaria and CAS Sofia

II.8.3. Library online services

During the year 2012 CAS Library continued offering its fellows and external scholars online services. The most often used ones was the Electronic Document Delivery Service. By this service library distant users order and receive articles from periodicals and pages from books in PDF format through e-mail. The librarian performs searches in the databases

and sends the articles to the users, thus saving them a visit to the premises of the Library. During the year 2012 more than **50 articles** were sent to the users. In addition, each month a list of the newly acquired books in the Library was sent to the e-mail addresses of the registered users of the Academic Gateway.

PhDGate (Integrated Electronic Database of the PhD Students in Bulgaria – www.phdgate.net) gives opportunity to young researchers from all scientific fields to present their personal and academic profile and provides them with virtual access to specialized information, creates newsgroups and flexible mailing lists. One hundred new PhD students registered in the database (**2,400** active users in total). Monthly the average unique visits to the site are **1,825** and **7,092** pages are viewed. The project is currently provided for by CAS' institutional resources but for the forthcoming year, in cooperation with the Association of Doctoral Candidates in Bulgaria and external funding, we aim to widen its services and outreach.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** (www.gate.cas.bg) grants the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the fourth year of its existence the CAS coordinator, Dimiter Dimov, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are **464** registered users, all of them academics. The average visits are **957** per month, and more than **2,618** pages have been viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings (www.red.cas.bg) In addition to the catalogue of scholars, projects and institutions dealing with the critical reading of communist history and in addition to the adequate informational flux in this area CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the issues of communist legacies, their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography filed within different topics and genres (books, articles and archive documents - **859** titles). The web-page is regularly fed with news from the targeted research field. Statistics show that the monthly number of average visits amounts to **379** and **996** pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

In 2012/2013 CAS continues to pursue its visibility policies through its *Newsletter*. The next issue is expected to be published at the beginning of June 2013 and will be widely distributed and uploaded on the CAS website.

The popular *electronic projects* (see previous section) targeting different generations of scholars at home and abroad continue to contribute to the Centre's publicity and visibility among the academia; for example, the number of downloads of CAS Working Papers from the CEEOL database during the past year was **563**.

Apart from these electronic dissemination channels, CAS has put special effort into pursuing as many *hardcopy publications of project research results* as possible. For this the Centre relies on the additional financial resources within the Advanced Academia project budget for 2012-2016 for pre-publication preparation, language editing and final hardcopy release of the Fellows' individual research papers.

The variety of *international public events* (workshops, conferences, guest-lectures) is yet another venue for promoting the work of the Centre.

The Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series should be mentioned here as another important public “outlet” for the intellectual yield of CAS. The series has become very popular, attracting many attendees and evoking a lively response from the audience.

CAS Sofia

April 2013