

Diana Mishkova

Director

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CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Personnel

I.1.1. Academic personnel and Academic Advisory Council

As of May 2016, the academic personnel of CAS consist of its Director, Diana Mishkova (History), its Permanent Fellow, Roumen Avramov (Economic History; Economy), and two Academic Associates: Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva (Anthropology) and Assoc. Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (History).

The mandates of Prof. Pepka Boyadjieva (Sociology) and Dr. Georgy Ganev (Economy) in their capacity of CAS academic associates expired at the end of 2015. Pending endorsement by the Board, they will be replaced by former CAS fellows Daniel Smilov (law & political science) and Orlin Spasov (media studies). This choice is intended to match the new areas where in the next few years the Centre will seek thematic expansion. Introducing a mandate for the Academic Associates of two years with the possibility for extension is also deemed appropriate.

Due to family reasons, Prof. Martin Müller (geography) and Prof. Leyla Neyzi (anthropology) requested discontinuation (one year prior to expiration) of their second mandates as members of the CAS Academic Advisory Council as of December 2015. Due to his nomination as a Faculty Dean, Prof. Galin Tihanov had asked for “freezing” his membership for three years, pending the agreement of the Board.

CAS director will propose the nomination of Dr. Carmen Scheide (Cultural Studies, Executive Director of the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen) as a new member of the CAS Academic Advisory Council. Dr. Scheide’s nomination is pending the formal endorsement by the CAS Board. (See **ANNEX I** for Dr. Carmen Scheide’s Curriculum Vitae). Proposals for two or even three new Academic Council nominees will be discussed during the meeting of the Board.

From October through December 2016 Diana Mishkova was on a research stay at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena. During her absence and in close consultation with her, her functions have been taken over by the CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov.

1.1.2. Administrative personnel

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

I.2. Financial data

Total	€ 307 305,00
Research Expenses	€ 192 355,00
Institutional Expenses	€ 114 950,00

1.2.1. Annual Financial Statements (approved by certified auditor)

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

I.3. Institutional sustainability

The Swiss Government annual grant amounting to **100.000 CHF** has been contracted until the end of 2016. The Federal Council of Switzerland has addressed a letter to the Swiss parliament proposing the continuation of the support for CAS at its present level for the next four years, 2017-2020. The decision will be taken in the fall of 2016.

As of the end of 2015 the Austrian Government annual grant amounting to **€ 25.000** is terminated following a decision of the Austrian Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF) had withdrawn its member from the CAS Board.

In March 2015 the America for Bulgaria Foundation approved an extension by three years (2016-2019) of the grant provided for independent fellowships for Bulgarian scholars. The new grant envisages institutional support for CAS at the amount of **€ 20.452** per year.

Following a recommendation made by the Chairman at the last Board of Trustees session, on March 17-18, 2016 Benedikt Hauser, Katharina Biegger and Dirk Lehmkuhl visited CAS in order to partake in the elaboration, together with Martin Zaimov, Diana Mishkova and Roumen Avramov, a mid-term prospect for the institutional sustainability of the Centre. The result of this discussion and subsequent exchange is presented under the CAS Plan for 2016. (Please, see **AP ANNEX IV** for the *CAS Institutional Sustainability: Strategy Paper*)

I.4. Partnerships and cooperation

In the course of 2015/2016 CAS continued its collaboration with some of the major local and a number of outstanding international institutions, among them: Sofia University, the New Bulgarian University, the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Sofia), the American University in Bulgaria, the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland), the Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt (Germany), the EURIAS (in particular NEC in Bucharest and IWM in Vienna), the Institute for Advanced Study in Nantes, the Central European University (Budapest), the Mark Bloch Centre of the Humboldt University (Berlin).

The long-term institutional partnership with *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* continues to be a fundamental element of CAS' institutional sustainability and an effective link to German academic and funding bodies. The Centre is indebted especially to Kathrin Biegger and Thorsten Wilhelmy for their unfailing assistance and backing on an everyday and strategic level. In the course of 2015 the Centre has continued its close collaboration with the *America for Bulgaria Foundation*.

I.4.1. Cooperation agreement with Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt

In the framework of the agreement between CAS Sofia and the Max-Weber-Kolleg (University of Erfurt), in September 2015 CAS Director Diana Mishkova discussed with Prof. Hartmut Rosa (Director of the Max-Weber-Kolleg) the future cooperation between the two institutes. Prof. Rosa visited Sofia on the occasion of the presentation of the Bulgarian edition of his book "*Beschleunigung. Die Veränderung der Zeitstrukturen in der Moderne*", hosted by Goethe Institut in Sofia. In November 2015 Prof. Mishkova had a meeting with Dr. Bettina Hollstein, Administrative Director of the Max-Weber Kolleg in Germany. They discussed the perspectives for a common project proposal on "*The Voices of Social Critique*", as well as other proposals that could be submitted in cooperation with the Max-Weber-Kolleg. (For the aftermath of these soundings, see under **III.3.3** in the Plan for 2016.)

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2015/2016 in the framework of *Advanced Academia* programme CAS hosted **11 research fellows** from **5** countries. (Please, see **AR ANNEX IV** for a complete list of 2015/2016 CAS Fellows and their topics). Another **6 researchers** from Bulgaria have been involved in the *RAGE* project and **8 academics** in the EUROBORDESCAPES project. Another **20 international scholars** participated in the project *European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*.

II.2. Completed projects

II.2.1. European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History

The project convenors and editors of the resultant collective volume, Diana Mishkova and Balazs Trencsenyi, submitted the final manuscript to Berghahn Books Publ. in February 2016. The volume is planned to come out in the autumn of 2016 (see under **II.5** below, **Book publications**, for the contents of the book)

II.2.2. Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe – new audit commissioned by the ERCEA.

In July 2015 the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) commissioned a second audit of the Negotiating Modernity project that ended in 2013. The audit mission was conducted by Mr. Andrew Lynas from the British company Lubbock Fine (an authorized representative of the ERCEA). The audit was carried out at the CAS premises between 14 and 16 July 2015, and the audit report was sent to CAS at the end of October 2015. The conclusion of the report was that the financial management of the project was carried out in full compliance with the requirements of the Grant Agreement.

II.2.3. RAGE project

The project was completed in April 2015, however, due to administrative changes at the coordinating institution (the University of Leicester), the final scientific and financial reports were submitted to the European Commission only in January 2016.

The following two collective volumes have emerged as a result of the RAGE project: “*The Rise of the Far Right in Europe*”, Palgrave; and “*Rise of Radical, Far and Extreme Right, Populist Shifts and ‘Othering’ in a Europe under crisis*” They are in the process of language editing and are expected to be published with Routledge Publ. later in 2016. The project partners are also working on two additional publications, “*Populism and the Web: communicative practices of parties and movements in Europe*” and “*Democratic Counterforces to Populist Othering and Exclusion*”, which will appear as spin-offs of the RAGE project.

II. 3. On-going projects

II.3.1. Advanced Academia Programme

Since its beginning in 2009, with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, CAS has granted fellowships to 48 young and established Bulgarian scholars. With the assistance of the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus*

Foundation) since 2011, and of the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation* since 2013, the programme has opened to international fellows. A total of 31 foreign fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled during 2011-2015.

The selection of Fellows, carried out by the CAS Academic Advisory Council, is based on two major criteria: 1) scholarly excellence of the candidate and, 2) quality of the research proposal (especially: originality; innovative fundamental research proposal with significant contribution; interdisciplinary and/or comparative approach). An optimal Fellows group's dynamics is being sought.

2016/2017 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically in April 2015 (with a deadline 1 October 2015). The calls yielded a total of 39 applications from Bulgarian scholars, and 150 applications from international scholars from over 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. The Academic Advisory Council selected 9 Bulgarian and 9 international Fellows. The new cohort of CAS Fellows met for the first time on 7 March 2016. (Please, see **AR ANNEX V** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects).

Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series: In March 2016 CAS opened the sixth season of the series aimed at presenting to a wider academic and interested audience the results from the research of the 2015/2016 Bulgarian Advanced Academia Fellows. (For more details, please see below under **II.6. Public Events**; for the *Calendar of the 2016 Public Lectures*, please, see **AR ANNEX VIII**.)

As part of its electronic *CAS Working Paper Series*, in 2015 CAS prepared for publication in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) the research results of 9 Bulgarian and international Fellows from the 2014-2015 cohort.

AR ANNEX VI contains the report submitted in January 2016 to the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft / Porticus Foundation and the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation, for the period March 2013–March 2016, International module); **AR ANNEX VII** presents the feedback from the Fellows participating in both modules of the programme.

Gerda Henkel Independent Fellowships. In 2015, with the help and mediation of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, CAS Sofia and NEC Bucharest submitted a joint application to the Gerda Henkel Foundation for providing a limited number of fellowships to outstanding young researchers from the former Soviet Republics. Following the approval of the application, CAS Academic Advisory Council selected two 5-month *Gerda Henkel Fellows* from Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

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

II.3.2. EUBORDERSCAPES

EUBORDERSCAPES (*Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World*) (June 2012 - May 2016) is a project financed through the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and is running for four years (June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2016). CAS is one of the 22 partner institutions (from 17 different countries) constituting the project consortium, coordinated by the University of Eastern Finland.

Using the borderscapes concept, the project offers an approach to border studies that expresses the multilevel complexity of borders, from the geopolitical to social practice and cultural production at and across the border. It thus seeks to propel a productive understanding of the processual, de-territorialized and dispersed nature of borders and their ensuring regimes in the era of globalization and transnational flows as well as showcasing border research as an interdisciplinary field with its own academic standing. Contemporary bordering processes and practices are examined through the borderscapes lens to uncover important connections between borders as a “challenge” to national (and EU) policies and borders as potential elements of political innovation through conceptual (re-)framings of social, political, economic and cultural spaces. The underlying critical re-reading and understanding see borders not as an entity to be taken for granted, but as a place of investigation and as a resource in terms of the construction of novel (geo)political imaginations, social and spatial imaginaries and cultural images. Rethinking borders, in this sense, means deconstructing the interweaving between political practices of inclusion-exclusion and the images created to support and communicate them on the cultural level by Western territorialist modernity. The emerging constellation of bordering policies, discourses, practices and images open new possibilities for thinking, mapping, acting and living borders under contemporary globalization.

A group of eight, seven Bulgarian and one Bosnian, scholars under the overall coordination of Diana Mishkova are involved in the project implementation on the part of CAS. The research activities under the project are carried out in 15 work packages.

CAS researchers substantially contribute to work package 1 (*Conceptual Change and the State of the Debate*), work package 3 (*the Reconfiguration of post-Soviet borders and Conceptual Change*), work package 4 (*Europeanisation: European Integration and Conceptual Change*), work package 6 (*Borders and Critical Geopolitics of Neighbourhood*), and work package 7 (*Cross-Border Cooperation as Conflict Amelioration*). In addition to carrying out their specific research tasks under the different work packages, in 2015/2016 CAS researchers participated in a number of common workshops and conferences, and were preparing their research results for publication in collective volumes under the *Border Studies Book Series* of the Routledge Publishers.

II.4. CAS Discussion Series

II.4.1 Existential Socialism (Ageing under Socialism) Workshop Series

The discussion series *Ageing under Socialism* was the fifth under the thematic umbrella of “Existential Policies under Socialism”, convened by CAS Academic Associate Daniela Koleva. This workshop series gathers Bulgarian scholars from different academic institutions across the country (Sofia, Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad, Veliko Tarnovo and Russe), as well as different disciplinary backgrounds – sociology, history, anthropology, literary and cultural studies, psychology. The open workshops attract a varied audience – professors, researchers, PhD students and university students. The 2015 seminars focused on *ageing* and *old age* as conceived and re-conceived within medical, social, ideological, aesthetic, religious, and everyday discourses. Individual topics and representations under the seminar related to exploration of generations and their social roles, images of age and age stereotypes from the perspective of power relations; patterns of ageing as related to conflicting scenarios; generational clashes in their socialist variety, etc.

II.5. Book publications resulting from CAS projects and discussion series

II.5.1. European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History, Diana Mishkova and Balázs Trencsényi (eds.), London and New York: Berghahn Books, 2016 (forthcoming)

Contents: Introduction (Diana Mishkova and Balázs Trencsényi). **Part I:** Western Europe / The West (Stefan Berger); Scandinavia / *Norden* (Bo Stråth and Marja Jalava); The Baltic (Pärtel Piirimäe); The Mediterranean (Vaso Seirinidou); Southern Europe (Guido Franzinetti); Iberia (Xosé Manuel Nuñez); Southeastern Europe / Balkans (Diana Mishkova); Central Europe (Balázs Trencsényi); Eastern Europe (Frithjof Benjamin Schenk); Eurasia (Mark Bassin). **Part II:** European History (Stefan Troebst); Political geography / Geopolitics (Virginie Mamadouh and Martin Müller); Historical Demography (Attila Meleg); Linguistics (Uwe Hinrichs); Literary History (Alex Drace-Francis); Art History (Eric Storm); Economics (Georgi Ganev).

II.5.2. The Body under Socialism

The volume *The Body under Socialism*, comprising selected papers resulting from the eponymous discussion series (2014/2015), is under preparation and is due for publication in the fall of 2016.

II.6. Public Events

II.6.1. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series

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

the visibility of their work and contributing to their career growth. The fifth consecutive series of the *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* started on 23 March 2016 and is being held on a weekly basis (every Wednesday, at 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through April. So far the events have gained much popularity and attention on the part of scholars from various universities, human and social-science institutes and other research institutions in Sofia. (For the 2015 programme of the lecture series, please see **AR ANNEX VIII**).

II.7. CAS Library

II.7.1. Development of book collections

CAS Library has a well established tradition of collecting books selected by the Centre's fellows. Thus within the framework of the project *Advanced Academia* in 2015 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 a considerable number of their publications. Besides purchasing books, another means for the development of CAS Library collections is through exchange. Thus the Library has received books from the Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung, Regensburg, Germany. Through purchases, donations and exchange altogether, in 2015 the Library acquired 79 books in the field of social sciences.

II.7.2. Library services

II.7.2.1. Interlibrary loan with Panitza Library AUBG

The Library continued its fruitful partnership with the Panitza Library of the American University in Bulgaria. Thus, by means of interlibrary loan, the CAS fellows could make use of books, book chapters, copies of journal articles, conference papers, etc. Especially valuable was the guaranteed distant access to the various electronic collections of the Panitza Library. The comprehensive research databases (including Ebrary Academic Complete, JSTOR, EBSCO, Oxford Reference Online) provides CAS researchers with easy access to a wealth of full-text, science-oriented content.

II.7.2.2. Availability of the catalogue online through NALIS

It has been already four years since CAS Library electronic catalogue of books has been made available through NALIS Union Catalogue (national catalogue of the academic libraries in Bulgaria) and has increased the visibility of its collections and publications.

II.7.2.3. 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.

II.7.2.4. Free trials to academic databases

During the year 2015 the Library has offered CAS fellows free access the world's largest Russian archive of electronic documents *Integrum Profi*. It consists of more than 500 million documents in more than 15,000 databases, with 40,000 new documents being added daily, in addition to thousands of full-text newspapers, magazines, archives of news wires, business databases, encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

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, provides them with virtual access to specialized information, and creates newsgroups and flexible mailing lists. 23 new PhD students registered in the database in 2015 (2,419 active users in total). The average monthly unique visits to the site are 1,230 and 3,964 pages are viewed. The project is currently sustained with CAS' institutional resources.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** (www.gate.cas.bg) offers the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the seventh-year existence of the Gateway, Dimiter Dimov, its CAS coordinator, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are 532 registered users from academia. The monthly number of unique visits averages 720, and more than 3,300 pages are viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings (www.red.cas.bg) In addition to the access offered through this site to the catalogue of scholars, projects and institutions dealing with critical reading of communist history, CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the communist legacies and on their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography classified according to different topics and genres (1,019 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The web-page is regularly fed in with news. The average monthly number of visits amounts to 300, while 720 pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

As it has been mentioned in our previous report, in 2015 CAS published two collective volumes “*Love under Socialism*” and “*Natural Sciences, Technologies and Social Worlds*” comprising selected contributions to the *CAS Discussion Series*. The two books have received extensive reviews in the following periodicals: *Kultura*, *Literaturen Vestnik* and *Sociologicheski problemi*. The books were well received by not only academics but, judging from the sales, also the larger reading public.

In 2015/2016 CAS continued the publication of its *Newsletter*. The next issue is scheduled to appear in June 2016 and will be widely distributed and uploaded on the CAS website.

The popular *electronic projects* (see the previous section) targeting different generations of scholars at home and abroad continue to contribute to the Centre’s visibility among the academia at home and abroad.

Apart from these electronic channels, CAS emphasizes the dissemination of *printed publications*. To this end the Centre will continue to rely on the additional financial resources made available by the *Advanced Academia project*’s budget for 2012/2016 which includes expenses for pre-publication preparation, language editing and final hardcopy release of the Fellows’ individual research papers.

The already mentioned *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* continues to be another valuable venue for promoting the intellectual yield and the visibility of the Centre.

VI. PROBLEMS AND DEFICITS IN THE ACADEMIC WORK OF CAS IN 2015

An obvious deficit in the academic profile of the Centre in 2015 was the scarcity of (esp. public) workshops and conferences. This situation is closely related to the absence of self-generated new focus-group projects, which affects negatively the overall dynamics of the CAS. As the number of projects under preparation listed in the Plan for 2016 can indicate, the CAS leadership is trying hard, with the vital help of its institutional partners, to eliminate this insufficiency.

The guest-lectures constitute a long-standing deficit, largely pursuant from the lack of targeted funds. The CAS director would like to discuss with the Board ways to remedy this situation.

CAS Sofia

April 2016