

Diana Mishkova

Director

April 2017

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA**  
**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**I.1. Personnel**

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

As of April 2017, the academic personnel of CAS consists of its Director, Diana Mishkova (History), its Permanent Fellow, Roumen Avramov (Economic History; Economy), and three Academic Associates: Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva (Anthropology), Assoc. Prof. Daniel Smilov (Law & Political Science) and Assoc. Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (History).

Due to a multitude of professional commitments and increased workload, Prof. Rainer Forst (Political Theory and Philosophy) requested discontinuation (one year prior to expiration) of his mandate as a member of the CAS Academic Advisory Council as of January 2017. The mandate of Prof. Lea Ypi (Political Science) in her capacity of a member of CAS Academic Advisory Council had also expired at the end of 2016.

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

*I.1.2. Administrative personnel*

On 20 April Nikolay Kutsev will leave CAS to take a job in Brussels at the European Commission's Research Executive Agency. For the time being, no replacement is envisaged as most of the programmes Nikolay was in charge of had recently expired, while his ongoing functions will be taken over by Dimiter Dimov. In the event of increased workload a new person – preferably one with high qualification to be full-time employed and partake

as well in the more strategic administrative work – will be sought. No further changes in the administrative staff have taken place or are being envisaged.

## **I.2. Financial data**

Total	€ 294 599,00
Research Expenses	€ 184 320,00
Institutional Expenses	€ 110 320,00

### ***I.2.1. Annual Financial Statements (approved by certified auditor)***

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

## **I.3. Fundraising strategy**

The new Swiss Government grant amounting to 100 000,00 CHF per annum has been contracted until the end of 2020. The Federal Council of Switzerland had 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 for the extension was taken in the fall of 2016.

The grant, provided by the America for Bulgaria Foundation, envisaging institutional annual support for CAS of € 20.452, has been contracted for the period 2016 - 2019.

During the previous meeting of the CAS Board, it was suggested that CAS should initiate talks with officials in the Ministry of Education on possible cooperation between the two institutions. Information regarding the outcomes of these talks will be reported during the upcoming Board session in May.

## **I.4. Partnerships and cooperation**

In the course of 2016/2017 CAS continued its collaboration with some of the major local and a number of 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 longstanding institutional partnership with *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* has by now become an inseparable part of CAS' ongoing activities, institutional sustainability, and international networking. In all these respects the expertise and personal commitment of Dr.

Kathrin Biegger have ever been vital. In the course of 2016 the Centre has continued its productive collaboration with the *America for Bulgaria Foundation*.

CAS received an invitation to establish a programme of scholarly exchange and cooperation for the promotion of young researchers with the *Zukunftskolleg* of the University of Konstanz, Germany (see **AR ANNEX III**). CAS Director would like to solicit the Board's opinion as to possible changes to be introduced in the proposed agreement.

In the framework of the agreement between CAS Sofia and the Max-Weber-Kolleg (University of Erfurt), in 2016 CAS Director Diana Mishkova continued talks with Dr. Bettina Hollstein, Managing Director of Max-Weber-Kolleg on future cooperation between the two institutes. In the centre of these discussions is a common research programme, "*The Voices of Social Critique*," the application for which should be completed by June 2017.

#### ***1.4.1. The AUGIAS meeting in Sofia***

A meeting of the informal network of research institutes AUGIAS (Austauschs- und Gesprächskreis der Institutes for Advanced Study) from Germany, Austria, Romania and Bulgaria took place in CAS on 13-15 October 2016. The AUGIAS meetings take place twice a year and provide a venue for exchanging useful ideas and good practices in research management between the participating institutes and their representatives. At the meeting in Sofia managers of the following institutes took part: Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, Bielefeld; Historisches Kolleg, Munich; Center for Advanced Studies, Munich; Alfried-Krupp-Kolleg, Greifswald; Deutsches Literaturarchiv, Marbach; Max-Weber-Kolleg, Erfurt; Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin; Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Bad Homburg; New Europe College, Bucharest. CAS Director took the opportunity to introduce the guests to the history and current academic work of CAS and to establish personal connection with potential German partners.

#### ***1.4.2. Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND)***

The COFUND EU scheme is intended to co-finance existing national and international fellowship programmes with the aim "*to provide an international and intersectoral dimension to research training and career development*" and "*enhance research- and innovation related human resources on regional, national or international level.*" Following the last call for the COFUND programme (published on 15 April 2016), CAS submitted an application on 29 September 2016, with the aim of securing funding for additional fellowships under the existing *Advanced Academia Fellowship Programme*. In February 2017 CAS was informed by the Commission that the application had not been approved.

The formal reason for this decision was that the score it obtained (61 %) did not reach the minimum threshold (70 out of 100 %) necessary for funding. On the positive side, the evaluators praised, among others:

- the full competence and operational capacity of CAS to implement the proposed programme, on the basis of its proven record of international academic project management;
- the significant impact the programme has in Bulgaria and in the region;
- the possibility offered to candidates to choose freely their topic of research.

Some of the weaknesses pointed out in the evaluation report and explaining the lower overall ranking could be perhaps properly addressed in a future (re)application within the framework of the existing *Advanced Academia Programme*. Other shortcomings from the point of view of the reviewers, however, concern the overall organization of the programme and the evaluation of candidates. Among these, the main points of criticism relate to:

- the selection process (the lack of additional international independent experts to take part in the pre-selection stage as peer-reviewers);
- the duration of the fellowships (no sufficient mentoring/supervision arrangements and proper career development for the fellows, due to the limited duration of the programme).

Considering the abovementioned, CAS Director would like to discuss with the Board of Trustees the suitability of a renewed application under the COFUND scheme later this year. (For further reference, please see the full evaluation summary report **AR ANNEX IV**).

## **II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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

In the course of 2016/2017 CAS hosted 17 *Advanced Academia* fellows from 9 countries in the framework of the *Advanced Academia* programme, and another 8 academics participating in the EUROBORDESCAPES project (Please, see **AR ANNEX V** for a complete list of 2016/2017 CAS Fellows and their topics).

### **II.2. Completed projects**

#### **II.2.1. 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) was a project financed through the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, which ran for four years (June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2016). CAS was one of the 22 partner institutions (from 17 different countries) constituting the project consortium, which was coordinated by the University of Eastern Finland.

The project sought 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 were 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.

A group of eight (7 Bulgarian and 1 Bosnian) scholars under the overall coordination of Diana Mishkova were involved in the project implementation on the part of CAS. The overall research activities under the project were carried out in 15 work packages.

CAS researchers substantially contributed to the work packages dealing with *Conceptual Change and the State of the Debate, Reconfiguration of post-Soviet borders and Conceptual Change, Europeanisation: European Integration and Conceptual Change, Borders and Critical Geopolitics of Neighbourhood, Cross-Border Cooperation as Conflict Amelioration*.

The last months of the project and of CAS researchers’ involvement were dedicated to presenting the final results of their work and preparing them for publication in collective volumes under the *Border Studies Book Series* of the Routledge Publishers. On 25-28 May 2016 the CAS Euborderscapes researchers took part in the closing project conference in Berlin. This final event was intended for overall project assessment of outcomes and discussing spin-off activities (future publications, new project initiatives etc.).

The final scientific and financial reports were submitted to the European Commission in July 2016.

## **II. 3. On-going projects**

### ***II.3.1. Advanced Academia Programme and Gerda Henkel Independent Fellowships***

Since its beginning in 2009, with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, CAS has granted fellowships to **57** 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 **38** foreign fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled between 2011 and 2016. Since 2016 the *Gerda Henkel Foundation* has contributed to the group of CAS fellows with two additional 5-month independent fellowships per year targeting outstanding young researchers from the former Soviet Republics.

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

*The 2017/2018 Calls for Applications* (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically in April 2016 (with a deadline 1 October 2016). The calls yielded a total of 51 Bulgarian applications and 148 foreign scholar applications from over 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. The Academic Advisory Council selected 8 Bulgarian and 10 international Fellows, and two Gerda Henkel Fellows (from Russia and Ukraine) included. The new cohort of CAS Fellows met for the first time on 6 March 2017. (Please, see **AR ANNEX VI** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects).

*Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series*: In March 2016 CAS opened the seventh season of the series aimed at presenting the results from the research of the 2016/2017 Bulgarian Advanced Academia Fellows to a wider academic and interested audience. (For more details, please see below under **II.6. Public Events**; for the *Calendar of the 2017 Public Lectures*, please, see **AR ANNEX VII**)

As part of its electronic *CAS Working Paper Series*, in 2016 CAS prepared the research results of 13 Bulgarian and international Fellows from the 2015-2016 cohort for publication in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL).

**AR ANNEX VIII** presents the feedback from the Fellows participating in both modules of the programme.

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

### ***II.3.2. Does Monastic Economy Matter? Religious Patterns of Economic Behaviour***

The Centre for Advanced Study Sofia is embarking on a new three-year project. Our long-time partner, the *Center for Governance and Culture in Europe (GCE)* at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of St Gallen, Switzerland, has generously agreed to fund CAS's proposal for establishing a Research Network dedicated to the history of monastic economy. CAS will assume the overall implementation of the project, with CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov being in charge of its scholarly coordination. The three-year Performance agreement between GCE and CAS (2016-2019) was signed last October.

The study of monastic economy has been a matter of lasting interest on the part of economists and historians. The impressive amount of descriptive literature accumulated during almost a couple of centuries sheds light on the mechanics of the economic activities carried out in those entities and puts to test a variety of theoretical hypotheses concerning fundamental aspects of economic behaviour in the *longue durée*. The project intends to

structure a network of researchers from South-Eastern and Western Europe, and build a scholarly community interested in the topic. Our aim is to enhance the contacts, assist mobility and hence foster the intellectual debate in the field. We are going to use some of the tools that CAS has successfully handled for years: small, properly targeted and calibrated workshops; organisation of guest lectures for a well prepared and competent audience; research support to scholars in an environment and location which are appropriate to their (and the project's) agenda.

The activities of the network will be coordinated by a core group of 4-6 senior scholars from both South-Eastern and Western Europe. They will be responsible for the research planning, the organisational issues and the rules concerning the functioning of the network. At the end of the three-year period the network will present its research output as a guest-edited issue of a journal or a collection of papers included in a coherent volume. The additional funding for this publication will be provided by CAS.

Scholars from three countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania) are already involved, and academics from Switzerland, France, Austria, and Cyprus have been contacted. The effective start of the project was on 1 April 2017 when a kick-off meeting was convened at CAS and attended by four Bulgarian one Greek and one Romanian researcher. It was decided that the first workshop of the network will be organized in Sofia in October or November 2017. The modalities of the network's operation were discussed with particular attention to the organization of guest-lectures and the offer of different forms of research support during 2017. (Please, see **AR\_ANNEX IX /A-C** for the *Monastic Economy Project*.)

### ***II.3.3. A New Fellowship for Artists***

The Centre for Advanced Study is very pleased for having been able to fulfil a long-standing aspiration: providing five-month fellowships (one per year, initially contracted for the period 2017–2019) which target artists from various artistic fields – writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, actors, film directors, architects, etc. – by stimulating and promoting their creative work. The addition of such a fellowship is aimed at encouraging a deeper interaction between theoretical research and the arts, and create an environment in which the intersection and exchange of approaches, instruments and perspectives between ‘the ratio’ and ‘the imagination’ will challenge standard assumptions, raise unexpected questions, and generate unconventional debates. CAS would like to courteously thank the *Landis & Gyr Foundation* (Switzerland) for making this fellowship possible and express appreciation for Dr. Kathrin Biegger's personal devotion to this cause. The first fellowship under this programme went to Assoc. Prof. Jordan Banev, Lecturer of Theory of Music at the National Academy of Music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov”.

### ***II.3.4. How to Teach Europe in the 21st Century***

Another freshly launched programme titled *How to Teach Europe in the 21st Century* involves in partly differentiated capacity the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin and its two

kindred institutions in South-Eastern Europe, CAS Sofia and the New Europe College, Bucharest (NEC). The programme (2017–2019) targets outstanding individual (mostly junior) researchers from the humanities and social sciences from across the Eastern bloc and aims at developing expertise in the transfer of knowledge and teaching. It hopes to expand the productive academic networks of CAS and NEC, and also benefit scholarship and university education in the larger region of Eastern Europe by providing an incentive for excellent academics to integrate and translate their research findings into innovative teaching design.

For the three years of the project's duration six Fellows will be enrolled in the programme. Their in-residence periods (7 months in total for each fellow) would be distributed more or less evenly among both CAS and NEC, extending from a minimum of two months to at most five months within a year. During fellowship residencies, fellows will fully focus on their research while benefitting from the diverse communities of Fellows at the respective institute. All TE-Fellows together with the project Board team will be convened once per semester for a common seminar in either Sofia or Bucharest. Alongside these regular meetings CAS and NEC will invite key-note speakers to provide expertise on communication of sciences, generic skills in research and teaching, and other knowledge and techniques instrumental for the integration of innovative research materials and methodologies in education.

The effective start of the programme will be on 21-22 April 2017 when the Teaching Europe team will meet the already selected fellows (six scholars from Bulgarian, Romania, Ukraine and Moldova) at CAS, Sofia. CAS will be responsible for the overall administration of the TE project.

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

### ***II.4.1. Seminars by guest lecturers and former fellows***

#### ***II.4.1.1. The Cold War Cigarette: Tobacco Advertising and East-West Encounters.***

On 7 July 2016 Prof. Mary Neuburger, a Professor of history, the Director of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES), and the Chair of Slavic and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas of Austin, delivered a lecture on the development of cigarette marketing in Bulgaria and the USA in the context of contrasting systemic restraints and objectives. She examined the ways in which marketing of cigarettes in communist Bulgaria gained momentum in the same period that cigarette advertising within the USA was severely curtailed. She demonstrated how notions of the 'good life' versus the 'common good' under communism informed varied discourses and practices related to both smoking and advertising. Her highly engaged talk delved into the history of



tobacco as part of the history of consumption in Southeastern Europe and the Americas and explored its links to the larger, transnational story.

#### ***II.4.1.2. CAS Fellows' Workshop: A Change of Plans: New Perspectives on Bulgaria's Command Economy***

This workshop was convened on 28 July 2016 by CAS 2016-2017 fellows Dr Elitza Stanoeva, Dr Jan Zofka, and visiting fellow from Columbia University Dr Victor Petrov. The presented seven papers explored different aspects of the planned economy – the banking system, the bread-making manufacturing, the heavy industry, the trade network, the international transportation, the cultural production, and the cybernetic sector. The discussion outlined common patterns, channels of administrative interaction, systemic problems and spillover effects. Focusing on the case of socialist Bulgaria to traverse the complex institutional terrain of state planning and management, this workshop attempted to explore and intersect various institutional agendas and modes of operation which the presumably unified bureaucracy of state socialism had accommodated.

#### ***II.4.1.3. Power, Political Order and Everyday Life in the Balkans: From Post-Ottoman Nation States to Post-Socialist Democracies***

On 10 November 2016 Prof. Wolfgang Höpken, Professor of East and Southeast European History at the University of Leipzig and the Vice-President of the *Southeast Europe Association* (2002-2016), delivered a talk on *Power, Political Order and Everyday Life in the Balkans: From Post-Ottoman Nation States to Post-Socialist Democracies*. In the centre of Prof. Höpken's attention was the institutional framework of the post-Ottoman nation state, the socialist and the post-socialist democracies which had exerted a deep differentiated impact on the character of "power" and "rule". The lecture employed a *longue-durée* perspective, reaching from the nineteenth century to the present, and delved into the changing political orders that have affected people's everyday-life and how societies have developed strategies to cope with the power imposed on them. Theoretically embedded and methodologically robust, the talk contributed to the much debated question of "continuity" and "change" in Balkan societies on their way to "modernity".

### **II.4. CAS Discussion Series**

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

The discussion series *Ageing under Socialism* was the fifth, and last one, under the thematic umbrella of "Existential Policies under Socialism", convened by CAS Academic Associate Daniela Koleva. This workshop series, gathering together Bulgarian scholars from different academic institutions across the country, continued throughout January and February 2016. The 2016 seminars focused on the exploration of generations and their social roles, images of age and age stereotypes from the perspective of power relations, different patterns of ageing as related to conflicting scenarios, etc. The compilation and editing of a collective

publication related to this discussion session has been completed and the book will be released in the fall of 2017 as part of the *Research Forum Book Series* of CAS/RIVA Publ.

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

### ***II.5.1. The Economy of the “Revival Process”***

This monograph by CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov is an extension of his fellowship research under the 2012/2013 Advanced Academia Programme. The volume was published at the end of 2016 under *CAS Research Forum Series*.

The “Revival Process” is the euphemism coined by the Bulgarian communist regime for the forced assimilation campaign (1984-1989) against the Turkish minority in the country. This dark, large-scale episode of social engineering has had deep and complex sequels in the collective memory and the society at large. It has been approached from different points of view but still a number of grey zones remained unexplored. The book delves over 760 pages into the decision-making process and the events through their economic dimensions. It structures and calibrates the different costs paid for this paranoiac endeavour. In a broader perspective, the monograph outlines the key catalytic role of the climax of the “Revival process” – the exodus of more than 300 000 ethnic Turks during the summer of 1989 – for the Big Bang that led to the collapse of communism in Bulgaria. Meanwhile, in an effort to face the emergency and to preserve its power, the regime activated a panoply of most retrograde tools characteristic of “War Communism”. This mix of rudimentary proto-capitalism and fading socialism moulded in many respects the economic culture of the subsequent “Transition” in Bulgaria. The book is based on empirical evidence drawn from a great variety of archives and statistical sources, many of them untouched till now.

### ***II.5.2. A History of Modern Political Thought in East Central Europe. Volume I: Negotiating Modernity in the 'Long Nineteenth Century'***

This path-breaking study has been a product of the research under the “Negotiating Modernity” project supported by the European Research Council and hosted by the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (2008-2013). The two volumes, authored by an international team of researchers, offer the first-ever synthetic overview of the history of modern political thought in East Central Europe. Covering almost twenty national cultures and languages, the work goes beyond the conventional nation-centred narrative and offers a novel vision especially sensitive to the cross-cultural entanglement of discourses. The first volume, published in 2016, deals with the period from the Late Enlightenment to the First World War. It is structured along four broad chronological and thematic units: Enlightenment reformism, Romanticism and national revivals, late nineteenth-century institutionalization of the national and state-building projects, and the new ideologies of the fin-de-siècle facing the rise of mass politics. The authors trace the continuities and ruptures of political discourses, focusing especially on the modalities by which political thinkers from this part of the world

sought to bridge the gap between the idealized Western type of modernity and their own societies challenged by overlapping national claims, social and cultural fragmentation, and lack of institutional continuity.

The second volume, covering the period after the First World War to the present day, is due to appear in 2018.

### ***II.5.3. The Body under Socialism***

The volume *The Body under Socialism*, comprising selected papers resulting from the eponymous discussion series (2014/2015), was published at the end of 2016. The authors in this volume approach the topic through various aspects of the biopolitical imaginary: from scientific theorizations and the ensuing medical and educational practices through legal and institutional discourses about health and reproduction, to efforts to channel the consumption and, finally, to the body as metaphor in the memorial landscape of socialism. The authors seek the agenda that has imposed the model and the regimes of socialist corporeality, as well as the changes of this model and its regimes over the years; the grounds and ways of disciplining, normalization and stylization of the body. In their entirety these studies demonstrate that the body, as a receptacle of meanings, has no immediate political affiliation and could therefore convey effective political and ideological messages.

## **II.6. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series**

The public lectures are an important element of the Advanced Academia programme as they contribute significantly to enhancing the outreach of the Centre and its Fellows' research work. The series provides a valuable forum, especially for younger scholars, by promoting the visibility of their work and contributing to their career growth. The fifth consecutive series of the Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series started on 22 March 2017 and is being held on a weekly basis (every Wednesday, from 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through May. 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 2017 programme of the lecture series, please see **AR ANNEX VII**).

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

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

Through the years CAS Library has pursued a wise and secure collection development policy, i.e. in a timely and economical manner using information resources locally held, as well as from other organizations. New acquisitions are made through several methods: donation, purchase and exchange. Donations are typically made by current CAS fellows,

associates and alumni. This year the Library received as well a generous donation of **129** books by CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov. External researchers and foundations such as Communitas Foundation regularly donate their newly published books. Thus during the year 2016 the Library has enriched its collection of monographs in the thematic filed of history and social sciences with altogether **212** new books.

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

#### **II.7.2.1. Interlibrary loan with Panitza Library of the American University in Bulgaria**

By means of interlibrary loan the CAS fellows make use of books, book chapters, copies of journal articles, conference papers, etc. which are not available in the Centre's library. Next to the books made available through ILL with Panitza Library, especially valuable is the guaranteed distant access to the various electronic collections of that Library. The comprehensive research databases (including Ebrary Academic Complete, JSTOR, EBSCO, Oxford Reference Online) provide 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 five years since CAS Library electronic catalogue of books has been made available through the *NALIS Union Catalogue* (national catalogue of the academic libraries in Bulgaria), which 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.

### **III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT**

**PhDGate** (Integrated Electronic Database of the PhD Students in Bulgaria – [www.phdgate.net](http://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. 30 new PhD students registered in the database in 2016 (2,440 active users in total). The average annual visits to the site are 11,791 and 29,000 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](http://www.gate.cas.bg)) offers the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the eight-year existence of the Gateway, Dimiter Dimov, its CAS coordinator, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are 505 registered users from academia. The annual number of unique visits averages 10,548 and more than 38,976 pages are viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

**Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings** ([www.red.cas.bg](http://www.red.cas.bg)) In addition to the access offered through this site to the catalogue of scholars, projects and institutions dealing with critical reading of communist history, CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the communist legacies and on their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography classified according to different topics and genres (1,035 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The web-page is regularly fed in with news. The average monthly number of visits amounts to 309, while 733 pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

As it has been mentioned, in 2016 CAS published two volumes "*The Body under Socialism*" and "*The Economy of the 'Revival Process'*". The first volume comprises selected contributions to the *CAS Discussion Series*, while the second book is an extension to Roumen Avramov's research under the Advanced Academia Programme. Favourable reviews appeared in leading cultural periodicals such as *Kultura* and *Literaturen Vestnik*, as well as in the online sites of *Deutsche Welle*, *Marginalia* and *Liberalen Pregled*. On 15 February 2017 CAS organized a public presentation of "*The Economy of the 'Revival Process'*", which was attended by more than eighty people. Antonina Zheliazkova (The International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, IMIR), Mihail Ivanov (New Bulgarian University) and Georgi Ganev (Centre for Liberal Strategies) spoke about the book. *BIT Television* and the *Bulgarian National Radio* also surveyed the volume. Judging from the sales, the publication is well received by the reading audience.

Next to its electronic channels, CAS keeps insisting on 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 2016/2019 which includes expenses for pre-publication preparation, language editing and final hardcopy release of the Fellows' individual research papers.

In 2015/2016 CAS continued the publication of its *Newsletter*. The next issue is scheduled to appear in the fall of 2017 to 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.

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

CAS Sofia

13 April 2017