

Diana Mishkova

Director

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**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA**  
**2017 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 include its Director, Diana Mishkova (History), one 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).

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. Attila Meleg (History, Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University, Budapest), Prof. Carmen Scheide (Cultural Studies, University of Bern) and Prof. Galin Tihanov (George Steiner Chair of Comparative Literature, Queen Mary, University of London).

Due to his retirement, Prof. Antonis Liakos (History, University of Athens) requested discontinuation of his mandate as a member of the CAS Academic Advisory Council as of January 2018.

***I.1.2. Administrative personnel***

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

**I.2. Financial data**

Total	€ 253 188,31
Research Expenses	€ 143 350,10
Institutional Expenses	€ 109 838,21

### ***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 and Sustainability**

The Swiss Government grant amounting to 100 000,00 CHF (€ 89 544,00) per annum has been contracted until the end of 2020.

The grant, provided by the America for Bulgaria Foundation, envisaging institutional annual support for CAS of € 20 452,00, has been contracted for the period 2016 - 2019.

### **I.4. Talks with the Ministry of Education**

Following the decision of the Board, CAS continued its talks with officials from the Ministry of Education on possible cooperation between the two institutions. Information about these talks will be reported to the Board during its upcoming meeting.

### **I.5. Partnerships and cooperation**

In addition to its traditional partners in the country and a number of IASs abroad, most notably NEC, IWM, and CEU-IAS, CAS developed closer ties to two major German institutions involved in research in East Central Europe and the Balkans – the Imre Kertesz Kolleg in Jena and the Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung in Regensburg. Such close working relations beyond the personal level are deemed instrumental in seeking project-related or institutional support for CAS and NEC.

The longstanding institutional partnership with *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* has by now become an inseparable part of CAS' ongoing activities, institutional sustainability, and international networking. Kathrin Biegger held meetings with Prof. Ulf Brunnbauer, Director of the *Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung*, and Prof. Stefan Troebst, Director of the *Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa* in order to probe possibilities for joint action with the aim to secure German state funding for CAS and NEC.

In the course of 2017 the Centre has continued its productive collaboration with the *America for Bulgaria Foundation*.

## **II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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

In the course of 2017/2018 CAS hosted 16 *Advanced Academia* fellows from 7 countries in the framework of the Advanced Academia programme, and another 6 scholars participating in the *Teaching Europe Project*. (Please, refer to **AR ANNEX III** for a complete list of 2017/2018 CAS Fellows and their topics).

### **II. 2. On-going projects**

#### ***II.2.1. Advanced Academia Programme and Gerda Henkel Independent Fellowships***

Since the beginning of the Advanced Academia programme in 2009, with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, CAS has granted fellowships to **65** 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 **44** foreign fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled between 2011 and 2017. Since 2017 the *Gerda Henkel Foundation* has contributed to the group of CAS fellows with another two 5-month independent fellowships per year targeting outstanding young researchers from the former Soviet Republics.

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

*The Calls for Applications for 2018/2019* (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically in February 2017 (with a deadline 31 May 2017). The calls yielded a total of 50 Bulgarian applications and 104 foreign applications from over 30 countries in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

As of 2017, interviewing the short-listed applicants became an essential element of the selection process. The CAS Academic Council held its regular session in Sofia on 7 October 2017, while the short-listed candidates (47) were interviewed by two council members, Prof. Carmen Scheide and Prof. Attila Melegh, the CAS Director, and the CAS Permanent Fellow, on 26 and 27 October 2017. In the unanimous opinion of the jury, the interviews proved most useful in gauging the actual capacities and motivation of the candidates, so the CAS is determined to continue this procedure, now that it had found a workable formula for it.

The final selection rendered 8 Bulgarian and 9 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 2018. (Please, see **AR ANNEX IV** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects). Again, our first impressions of the fellows, the way

they interact, and their first seminar presentations seem to confirm the positive role of the interviews in the selection process.

*Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series:* In March 2018 CAS opened the eighth season of the series, which was aimed at presenting the results from the research of the 2017/2018 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 2018 Public Lectures*, please, see **AR ANNEX VI**)

As part of its electronic *CAS Working Paper Series*, in 2017 CAS prepared the research results of 11 Bulgarian and international Fellows from the 2016-2017 cohort for publication in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL).

**AR ANNEX V** 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.

*CAS Working Paper Series: some issues for discussion.* As it is well-known, an intrinsic part of the CAS Fellows' contracts is the obligation that they submit a paper presenting (part of) their research carried out during their fellowship. These papers undergo language editing and are released as *CAS Working Papers* in the Central European Online Library. Most of our Fellows have appreciated strongly this opportunity to gain international visibility with the expert help of CAS (which also takes over the financing of the whole production process). On two occasions during the last couple of years, however, this obligation (and opportunity) seems to pose a problem: Fellows, who intend to submit their CAS research for publication in peer-reviewed journals are, understandably, reluctant to have their papers already published electronically, even if in an a somewhat different format. The CAS Director and Permanent Fellow would like to discuss this issue at the coming board session.

*Private support for the programme and its future:* In September 2017 CAS received a generous private donation from Mr. Carl H. Pforzheimer, Emeritus Director and Co-chairman Emeritus of the America for Bulgaria Foundation. The amount of the donation is equivalent to the annual grant which CAS receives from America for Bulgaria Foundation on behalf of the Bulgarian module of the Advanced Academia Programme. CAS has received a clear sign from America for Bulgaria Foundation that this programme will not be any more prolonged after its expiration in June 2019 (it has been said that this is longest AfB-funded programme ever, which is not surprising in view of the overall funding philosophy of the foundation). The purpose of the donation is to extend the duration of the

programme for one additional academic year, 2019-2020, thus give CAS some more time to find funding for the Bulgarian fellows. The question about the prospective continuation of this programme after 2020 is a crucial one, and it will be in the centre of discussions during the forthcoming board session.

### ***II.2.2. Does Monastic Economy Matter? Religious Patterns of Economic Behaviour***

In November 2016, the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia and the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe, University of St Gallen, Switzerland, established a [NETWORK of scholars](#) from Southeastern and Western Europe devoted to the history of monastic economy. The goal of the NETWORK is to nurture research in this field in a comparative perspective and in view of the *longue durée* relevance of the monastic tradition for economic culture. The NETWORK supports the creation of a scholarly community by fostering intellectual debates, facilitating contacts and mobility, and bringing together academics from different thematic and institutional backgrounds.

The Network's First Workshop was held at CAS on 10–12 November 2017 and was attended by over 20 academics from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Romania, Serbia, and the UK. The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Victor Roudometof (Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus, Nicosia) on the topic "The Transformations of Orthodox Christianity in the Longue-Durée: A Sociological Analysis".

Part of the NETWORK's budget (2017-2019) is allocated to the granting, on a competitive basis, of research allowances in support of studies on the history of the monastic economy. After a first call for proposals the Selection Committee has approved three projects for funding:

- Lidia Cotovanu (Institute of History of the Romanian Academy) – "The metochia of the Patriarchates of Constantinople, Jerusalem, Alexandria and Antiochia in the Romanian Principalities (1565-1714). Historiographical, archival and bibliographic guide." (Approved budget of 2,285 EUR for research trips in Romania and handling of archival documents and images);
- Darko Dimitrovski (University of Kragujevac) – "The Role of Tourism in Monastic Economy with Reference to the Moral Economy. Approved budget of 2,000 EUR for two research trips in Cyprus;
- Daniela Kalkandjieva (Sofia University) – "Female Monasticism in Interwar Bulgaria. Approved budget of 1,040 EUR for attendance (participation fees, travel costs, accommodation, handling of archival materials) of an academic conference at Uppsala University."

Another call for applications is now open till the end of June 2018.

### ***II.2.3. A New Fellowship for Artists***

As it was mentioned in the previous report, this annual five-month fellowship was made possible thanks to the generous support of the *Landis & Gyr Foundation* (Zug, Switzerland) (the first contracted grant period is 2017–2019). It targets creative professionals from various artistic fields – writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, actors, film directors, architects, etc. The fellowship aims at encouraging a deeper interaction between theoretical research and the arts, and to stimulate and promote the creative work of the artist. In 2017 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”. The next fellowship has been awarded to Mr Krassimir Terziev in 2018, an independent Bulgarian visual artist.

As part of the *Landis & Gyr Foundation* international residency programme for artists and writers, the contracted grant contains a provision allowing Swiss artists to visit Sofia and spend time as part of the CAS community. On this basis, from April through July, 2018 CAS will host the Swiss-born artist, Mr Thomas Kneubühler, a photographer and visual performer living and working in Canada since 2000.

### ***II.2.4. How to Teach Europe in the 21st Century***

The programme (2017–2019), supported by Porticus and the Robert Bosch Foundation 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 young academics to integrate and translate their research findings into innovative teaching design.

The effective start of the programme took place on 20-22 April 2017 in Sofia with a kick-off meeting. The project board (Katharina Biegger, Valentina Sandu-Dediu, Vintila Mihailescu, Diana Mishkova, and Ulrich Schmid), together with the six selected fellows, agreed on the working schedule of the programme, particularly the in-residence stays of Fellows at CAS and NEC, respectively. The first regular workshop within the programme took place in Bucharest in late October 2017, where all Fellows presented their work progress. Prof. Antonio Loprieno from the University of Basel, President of the Austrian Science Board and of the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), gave a talk on “*What is Excellence in Higher Education? Critique of Recent Developments in Academia*”. The second workshop is planned to take place in April (2018) in Sofia, where the key-note speakers will be two experts in the field of digitalisation and communication of science: Dr. Roland S. Kamzelak (German Literature Archive *Marbach*) and Prof. Ulrich Schmid (University of St. Gallen).

## **II.3. Other Academic Activities**

### ***II.3.1. CAS Re-link Workshops***

The CAS re-link workshops continue its initiative to host seminars convened by former CAS fellows, who had spent considerable time abroad, offering them the opportunity to present their new research and re-link with the current intellectual life of the Centre and in Sofia. Last year, our former Advanced Academia fellow, Dr. Konstantin Golev (adjunct researcher at Comenius University, Bratislava), convened an international workshop on the topic “Mongol Warfare between the Steppe and the Sown: Military and Cultural Perspectives,” which took place at the Center for Advanced Study on 25-26 of May 2017 and involved scholars from Israel, Turkey, China, United Kingdom, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, France, Serbia and Bulgaria. The keynote lecture was delivered by Professor Michal Biran (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem), a leading specialist in the field of Medieval Mongol History and co-editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Mongol Empire*.

The strategic aim of the organizers was to highlight the position of Sofia (and Bulgaria in general) as one of the research centres on the history of the medieval Eurasian nomads and, at the same time, to stimulate further the interest of this topic among a broader circle of local young scholars and university students by bringing them into contact with successful researchers from diverse background. The workshop was held with the institutional and financial support of CAS (€ 1 000,00), and the rest of the funding was provided by the participants themselves.

### ***II.3.2. Interdisciplinary Workshop on Transnational Smuggling Networks: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Narratives about Illicit/Black/Second Markets in the Black Sea Region and Southeastern Europe”.***

This workshop was organised jointly by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland (GCE – HSG), and the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia, and took place on October 19-21, 2017 at CAS. It was devoted to the current state of research on political, historical, and social questions in the Black Sea region and beyond, in relation to the development of the illicit and black/second market economies. The workshop served as a point of departure to encourage contributions on empirical data collection, comparative research methods, and theory in local, as well as transnational contexts.

The workshop brought together a broad international scholarly community, with researchers in history, sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, and other related fields of study, from universities and research institutions in Switzerland, Germany, Serbia, Turkey, Italy, Denmark, Romania, and Bulgaria. The discussions took place in two panels: one dedicated to historical perspectives and development of smuggling networks, the other

looking into contemporary narratives and analysing experiences of agents involved in the smuggling chain, as well as consumers of the smuggled goods.

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

### ***II.4.1. Policies of the Rule of Law Workshop Series***

The new CAS Discussion Series “Policies of the Rule of Law” explores the principles of the rule of law through the prism of various fields of study – law, political science, history and psychology. Related issues are discussed from the point of view of Constitutional Theory as well as from the angle of recent developments taking place in Europe. The new Discussion Series was initiated by CAS Academic Associate Dr Daniel Smilov (D Phil, Oxon; SJD), comparative constitutional lawyer and political scientist, Associate Professor of political theory at the Political Science Department of Sofia University; Programme Director at the Centre for Liberal Strategies.

The 2017 workshops focused on the topic of *The Rule of Law* as a political ideal rooted in constitutionalism and liberalism and addressed issues as authorities, institutions, power subordination, legal constraints, arbitrary exercise of power, ethics of self-constraint, etc. So far within this framework, three seminars took place in 2017, and one – in 2018, with prominent Bulgarian speakers from the field of law:

Dr. Daniel Smilov (Dept. of Political Science, Sofia University) – “Constitutionalism as a Political Doctrine.”

Assoc. Prof. Christian Takoff (1965-2017) (Faculty of Law, Sofia University; a member of the German-Bulgarian Legal Co-operation Society and co-founder of the Institute of German Law at the Law Faculty of Sofia University) – “Justice in Law.”

Dr Stefan Popov (Ph.D. in Philosophy and Social Science from the New School for Social Research, New York and Sofia University; specialist in constitutional policy, international security and public policy; Director of the Risk Monitor Agency) – “Civil War as a Prerequisite of the Constitutional State”

Atanas Slavov (constitutional law, lecturer in Public Law at Sofia University, former CAS fellow) – “The Paradoxes of Citizen Participation.”

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

### ***“European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History”***

This book is the final result of the CAS project “*European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*”, funded by Stifterverband Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, which was completed in 2015. In the beginning of 2017, the project

convenors, Prof. Diana Mishkova and Prof. Balazs Trencsenyi, submitted the manuscript to Berghahn Books Publishing, and the book came out, in November 2017, under the Berghahn Books *European Conceptual History* series.

This collective volume addresses the ubiquity of regionalizing terminology, whereby geographical designations such as “Scandinavia,” “Eastern Europe,” and “the Balkans” are frequently treated as empirical realities rather than a series of shifting, overlapping, and historically constructed concepts. It is the first to provide a synthetic account of these concepts and of the historical and intellectual contexts in which they emerged. Bringing together prominent international scholars from across multiple disciplines, it systematically and comprehensively explores how such “meso-regions” have been conceptualized throughout modern European history.

A book launch is planned to take place on 15 May 2018 at IWM, in Vienna, and will involve, first, an internal discussion with IWM academic staff and Fellows, and a public event, where the editors and some of the authors will present the volume before a broader Viennese scholarly audience.

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive series of the Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series started on 21 March 2018 and is being held on a weekly basis (every Wednesday, from 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through May. The format of the presentations comprises a 45-minute lecture followed by a 45-minute discussion session. So far these events have gained much popularity and attention by scholars from various universities, researchers from human and social-science institutes and other academic institutions in the capital. (For the 2018 programme of the lecture series, please see **AR ANNEX VI**).

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

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

Through the years CAS Library has followed a sound 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 and associates, as well as CAS alumni. Thus during the year 2017 the Library has enriched its collection of

monographs in the thematic filed of history and social sciences with altogether 71 new books.

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

#### ***✓ Interlibrary loan with Panitza Library AUBG***

By means of interlibrary loan the CAS fellows could make use of books, book chapters, copies of journal articles, conference papers, etc. During the year 2017 more than 15 books were circulated though ILL with Panitza Library. Especially valuable was the guaranteed distant access to the various electronic collections of the Panitza Library. The comprehensive research databases (including JSTOR, EBSCO, Oxford Reference Online) provided CAS researchers with easy access to a wealth of full-text, science-oriented content.

#### ***✓ 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 NALIS Union Catalogue (national catalogue of the academic libraries in Bulgaria) and has increased the visibility of its collections and publications.

#### ***✓ 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 2017 more than 20 articles were sent to the users.

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

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 523 registered users from academia. The annual number of unique visits averages 12,138 and more than 33,345 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 (1,056 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The web-page is regularly fed in with news. The average monthly number of visits amounts to 239, while 1015 pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

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 through the *Advanced Academia project's* budget for 2016/2019, which includes a subvention for pre-publication production process (language editing and printing).

In 2016/2017 CAS continued the publication of its *Newsletter*. The next issue is scheduled to appear in the fall of 2018 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.

Another medium of disseminating information on the Centre's events (public lectures, guest lectures, book launches, etc.) is the CAS webpage on Facebook. CAS has already been using this social platform for the last five years and enjoys equal attention by former fellows, either Bulgarian and foreign, as well as other scholars and students across the country. Currently CAS has got around 260 friends and followers on Facebook.

The already mentioned *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* is another valuable social tool for publicising and advertising the intellectual output of CAS. In the recent years this series has become very popular, attracting many attendees from the Sofia academia and evoking a lively response from the audience.

CAS Sofia, April 2018