



CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. CAS new office premises

In January 2009 CAS took what can be called the most important step towards its long-term institutional sustainability – the acquisition of its own premises. The new CAS home has office space of 145 m² and is situated in the very heart of Sofia, next to the Academy for Theatre and Film Arts, off Rakovski Str., at a 5-minute walk from the present CAS office. While not quite matching our earlier aspirations for securing an independent building with ample space for the Centre, these wonderfully located premises, being part of a preserved downtown Sofia building, will provide a much more affordable alternative for meeting our basic office and conference needs. In the light of the overall financial context, moreover, this outcome, which saves substantial maintenance costs, appears even more positive than we would have been otherwise willing to see it. From here on, we can continue looking for options and fundraising in order to complete this purchase with additional space for hosting events, Fellows and staff, but we are now backed by the assurance that the “core” of CAS in terms of activities and personnel, has a safe roof over their heads. Currently, the flat is undergoing significant internal and external renovation and reconstruction, expected to be completed for the next academic year. We extend special thanks to the CAS’ friends and supporters who made possible this important acquisition.

I. 2. Personnel development

I.2.1. Academic personnel

Currently the permanent academic personnel of CAS consists of four Academic Associates – Prof. Pepka Boyadjieva (Sociology), Dr Georgi Ganev (Economy), Prof. Georgi Kapriev (Medieval Studies) and Director Assoc. Prof. Diana Mishkova (History). No changes have been made since the last Board meeting in this department.

I.2.2. Administrative restructuring and new recruits

We are pleased to introduce the two new members of the CAS administrative team – Ms. Silvia Velinova who undertakes the Administrator’s responsibilities on a full-time basis and Ms. Ralitsa Petrova who steps in as a part-time Coordinator of International Projects. Former CAS Administrator Neliya Kolarska took over responsibilities for fundraising and project coordination. For now, CAS has dispensed with the secretarial position, distributing secretarial duties among the rest of the staff. The performance of even minor secretarial duties at CAS requires a high degree of sophistication, precision and knowledge to match the institution’s standards. We consider it wiser to involve evenly the existing experienced staff rather than limiting one highly-qualified professional at CAS solely to technical duties.

I.3. Auditor's report

The annual Auditor's Report, prepared in March 2009, confirmed that the administration of all funds granted to CAS has been performed in conformity with the law and with the best financial practices.

I.4. Partnerships and cooperation

Over 2008/2009 CAS established and sustained partnerships with a number of local and international institutions, among them: the National Science Fund to the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science; New Bulgarian University (Sofia), Centre for Liberal Strategies (Sofia), Sofia University, Fribourg University (Switzerland), NetIAS – most actively, the New Europe College in Bucharest and the Central European University (Budapest). Additionally, the close institutional partnership with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin kept its pace during the past academic year and we would like to take the present opportunity to thank to Rector Prof. Luca Giuliani, to our esteemed Board Chairman Prof. Dieter Grimm, and to Dr Katharina Biegger for their firm support, encouragement and devoted cooperation.

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2007/2008 CAS has attracted an unprecedented number of Fellows - 28 scholars from 11 countries.

II. 2. Ongoing and newly launched projects

II.2.1. Shaken Order: Authority and Social Trust in Post-Communist Societies (2007-2009)

The project is supported by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe and the Rule of Law South East Europe Program of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Germany and is currently in the final stages of its last and second year. The main objectives before the Fellows in this Project were to identify the systemic/structural and the epistemological preconditions of the profound changes of authority and social trust; to study the effects of these processes on the social (in)stability and the possibilities for institutional reforms in the legal field; to interrogate the heuristic potential of the existing theoretical traditions in the area of law and to generate new ideas and approaches.

The end of the first project year was marked by a working session on June 10–12, 2008 and the exciting encounter with Prof. Michael Herzfeld, renowned anthropologist and member of the CAS Academic Council who gave a talk on "*Social Science and Ethnographic Practice*" on the 10th June at CAS.

The second project year started with the selection of new Fellows. Following the CAS Academic Advisory Council rankings, six applications received excellent marks. In addition to these, three more projects were perceived as having high potential, thus CAS negotiated the funding of three additional fellowships. CAS would like to express its gratitude the Austrian government and the Rule of Law South East Europe Program of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for providing additional support for these projects. The group of selected Fellows includes one Slovenian, one Czech and seven Bulgarian researchers.

The second year kick-off workshop took place on November 7-8, 2008. It was attended by both first and second year Fellows. The main objective of this workshop was to allow first and second year Fellows to meet in order to ensure the continuity between the two groups and their research. The opening of the second year was marked by the intriguing lecture of Prof. Claus Offe on *"The EU after Eastern Enlargement"*. The second annual workshop took place on March 12-13th, 2009 at CAS, providing all Fellows with the opportunity to present and discuss their interim research results and papers.

All closing reports will be published under the CAS Working Paper Series on CAS website. Depending on the available project funds, we plan to publish the scholarly results a separate edition in the fall of 2009.

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

This five-year project, supported by the European Research Council Starting Independent Researcher Grant, seeks to map the history of East Central European political thought from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first century. In the first project year, the core group of researchers conducted four working sessions. The first took place in Sofia on April 19-20, the following two – in Budapest on June 14-15 and November 1-2, 2008 and the fourth was in Ljubljana on January 17-19, 2009. These meetings served to integrate the individual preliminary research agendas of the group members into a coherent whole and to set the new tasks to be carried out. This dynamic interchange of individual work and collective feedback enabled the team to proceed from a general setting of the envisaged volume towards increasingly concrete contents, preserving their coherence and integrating them into a wider regional frame.

Over the first twelve months of the project, the team established the outline of the envisaged volume by chapters and subchapters, including the breakdown of the different subchapters into non-narrative sketches. The researchers laid out a comprehensive list of political thinkers from the region, rated them according to their importance and structured them according to the devised breakdown, integrating them into the sketches. A basic list of primary and secondary literature has also been integrated in the same structure, and is currently being expanded. The team established contacts with external experts who will contribute by research in areas which are out of the core team's expertise (scholars working on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Estonia and Macedonia who are in contact with other possible external collaborators). A webpage of the project has been set up – www.negotiating.cas.bg, presenting the basic information on the aims of the project, its theoretical background and methodology. It also includes resources useful for researchers, the most important of which is a comprehensive bibliography on the history of political thought in the region, which is currently being updated and will continue to grow following the evolution of the project.

II.2.3. Regimes of Historicity and Discourses of Modernity and Identity, 1900-1945, in East-Central, Southeast and Northern Europe

Regimes of Historicity is a two-year research project supported by the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Germany and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, Sweden. It has a time span of 2008 to 2010 and it is currently in the final stages of its first year. The research focuses on the comparative analysis of the various ideological traditions thematising the connection between modernity and historicity – a connection lying at the core of modern identity-narratives in the post-romantic era (1900-1945) - in three "small-state" regions: East-Central, Southeast, and Northern Europe. The research scheme offers five nine-month research fellowships for young researchers and PhD students for conducting their

individual projects within the set thematic framework. Fellowships are awarded annually on a competitive basis.

Seven junior researchers (two from Romania, two from Bulgaria, one from the Czech Republic, Turkey and Finland) were selected for participation in the first year of the project. The overall work under the project and individual research of the junior participants is supervised by four Senior scholars (Prof. Diana Mishkova, convener, Prof. Antonis Liakos, Prof. Bo Strath and Dr. Balazs Trenszenyi). The launching session of the Regimes of Historicity project took place in Sofia on October 17–18, 2008. After a period of individual work all Fellows reported and extensively discussed their progress on March 27–28, 2009 during the Second Working Session of the project. A very important focus in the debates was the enunciation of the conceptual and methodological structure of the forthcoming project publication and the format of the individual contributions. We are especially pleased, and take it as a sign of the increased international reputation and visibility of the research carried out at CAS, that an outstanding publishing house has expressed interest in publicising the results from the *Regimes of Historicity* Project even before it has been terminated.

The Call for the second year fall of ROH was published in February 2009 (application deadline - April 20, 2009).

II.2.4. Modernity and Identity

The Modernity and Identity programme is a research project directed by Prof. Diana Mishkova and supported by the Bulgarian Science Fund for a period of two years – 2008–2010. It offers three nine-month research fellowships p.a. to Bulgarian PhD students and young researchers. Through this programme CAS tries to invest sufficient financial, administrative and academic resources into the professional advancement and recognition of promising Bulgarian scholars as well as in their access to international academic communities and networks.

Currently the project is in the first months of its first year. As one of the major goals of the *Modernity and Identity* fellowship programme is to integrate promising young Bulgarian researchers into the existent projects and the international network of CAS, the three Fellows were given the chance to present and discuss their research proposals during the Second Working Session of the *Regimes of Historicity* project (March 27–28, 2009). They were also invited to take part in the final Open Session of the *Regimes of Historicity* project in the village of Krapetz (June 24 – 29, 2009).

Three are the expected outcomes from this nine-month research: (1) In January 2010 the Fellows will organize, with the help of CAS, a series of individual or joint public presentations and discussions presenting the outcome of their research to a broader academic public; (2) in March 2010 they will submit their full-version working papers to the community of CAS Fellows and (3) finally, they will come up with edited versions of the research papers, formatted for publication in an internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal.

In November 2009 CAS will announce the second Call for fellowships within the *Modernity and Identity Programme*.

II.2.5. “Byzantine Memory and the Memory of Byzantium” publication-and-seminar programme (starting).

We are pleased to inform the Board Members that the proposal to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation submitted by CAS to and the associated Byzantine study group in 2008 was awarded a grant for a 3-year seminar-and-publication programme under the theme “*Byzantine*

Memory and the Memory of Byzantium". The launching international workshop will be convened in November 2009. The application to the Mellon Foundation was submitted in two coordinated parts – one for the above-described Byzantine Studies programme, and one – for publishing results from the various CAS discussion forums.

II.3. Completed projects

SCOPES Project: Institutionalisation of Scientific Networks and Scholarly Activities for the Promotion of Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Approaches on Nationalism in the Europe of Small Nations

The 3-year CAS project with Fribourg University (funded under the SCOPES programme of the Swiss National Science Foundation) was successfully completed in October 2008 with a concluding international conference at CAS. The event was attended by 3 Bulgarian and 8 foreign participants, among whom Prof. Urs Altermatt, project co-director and former rector of Fribourg University. The participants assessed the project as extremely useful, especially for the young scholars who received abundant opportunities to place their individual work in a critical international context and to teach to foreign university students (via the numerous teaching exchanges). The positive outcome of this joint endeavour and the favourable feedback of all who took part in it have motivated CAS to initiate the elaboration of a new application under the revised SCOPES programme.

II.4. Other academic activities

II.4.1. CAS Discussion Series

II.4.1.1. Consolidation/Disintegration of Public Institutions and the Political Process

In the course of the first year of the "*Shaken Order*" project, a new idea was conceived that would eventually enrich the project's scope and outreach: the team leader Dr Ivo Hristov and other Bulgarian legal scholars interested in the "*Shaken Order*" problem field, initiated a discussion series, related to the project's research area, under the title "*Consolidation/Disintegration of Public Institutions and the Political Process: Institutional Changes in Bulgaria after the Accession to the EU*". In the series' framework, scholars from different fields and disciplines discuss the institutional changes resulting from Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007 as well as related problems and questions of the day. The organisers' striving is to spur a joint reflection on the recent and ongoing processes of social transformation and restructuring of the Bulgarian public sphere. The critical discussions of representatives of various disciplines – sociologists, legal scholars, political scientists, historians, economists – aim to overcome the fragmentation of the debate about important social problems. During the discussions several thematic fields were outlined, among them: "*Punishment and Revolutionary Expedience: Bulgarian Criminal Law, 1944-1956*" by Martin Kanushev; "*Sofia-Athens and back: reflections on two different mass protest cultures (8 December 2008 – 14 January 2009)*" by Miladina Monova; "*The Legitimacy of the Bulgarian Constitutional Model*"; "*Challenges to the Legal Modernization of Bulgaria and Russia (Comparative analysis)*" by Ivo Hristov; "*The Parties and Frustrated Democracy*"; "*The Agreed Revolution: 1989, Guilt and Political Capital*" by Todor Hristov.

II.4.1.2. CAS History Club

In 2008/2009 the CAS History Club, an informal group of historians and historically minded scholars of other disciplines continued its regular reunions. The Club continues to provide a space for a new discourse on fundamental topics in the national and regional historiography informed by a dialogue between different viewpoints, critical re-reading of interpretations grounded in restrictive or anachronistic practices in scholarship, and cross-national

methodological perspectives. On November 4, 2008 Albena Hranova presented "*The Hayden White Case or Why Historiography is not Literature*" and on January 22, 2009 Tchavdar Marinov presented "*The Invention of the Bulgarian Revival Architecture*".

II.4.1.3. CAS Atelier for Biographical Research

This discussion forum, also gathering researchers from a broad range of disciplines, continued its sessions aimed at sharing experience about research based on oral and written personal documents. The seminar papers will be edited by Prof. Daniela Koleva and Prof. Ivan Elenkov and are under preparation for publication as part of the already well-established CAS-Riva "Research Forums" series in 2009.

II.4.1.4. Natural Sciences and Social Worlds

Starting in November 2007, CAS has become the scene of the planned three workshops of this discussion cycle, convened by former CAS Fellow, Prof. Dessislava Lilova (Southwest University of Blagoevgrad). The discussions were intended to explore the interface between, the medical construction of man, genetics, zoology, botany, mineralogy and geography, and the modern ideologies, including nationalism and the various conceptualisations of modernity. The publication of selected papers is currently under preparation within the framework of the CAS "Research Forums" series. The volume will include 20 articles and an introductory chapter, as well as biographical notes for the authors and abstracts in English.

II.4.2. CAS Guest-Lecture Series

- Prof. Michael Herzfeld (Harvard University, Department of Anthropology)- "*Social Science and Ethnographic Practice: Methods, Myths and Mastery*", June 10, 2008, CAS
- Prof. Claus Offe (Humboldt University/Hertie School of Governance, Berlin) - "*The EU after Eastern Enlargement* ", November 8, 2008, CAS
- Prof. Denis Galligan (Oxford University) - "*The People and the Constitution*", June 18, 2009, CAS

II.4.3. International Workshop on "Emerging Party Systems and the European Context" On September 12, 2008, an open session was held at CAS on the topic of *Emerging Party Systems and the European Context*. This was one of a series of meetings held by a research network organised under the auspices of the British Academy which has been active since 2003 and is concerned with *the Impact of European Union Enlargement on Central European Party Systems and Electoral Alignments*. Core members are Paul Lewis (UK, convenor), Radoslaw Markowski (Poland), Zsolt Enyedi (Hungary), Zdenka Mansfeldova (Czech Republic) and Alenka Krasovec (Slovenia), although other scholars have also attended the various meetings of the Network, held in Prague, Ljubljana, Wierzba (Poland), Budapest and the European University Institute (Florence). Members of the Network have produced numerous books and articles on different aspects of Central European party development and the evolution of party systems, and collaborated on a joint work on *The European Union and Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe*, published in 2006 by *Palgrave Macmillan*. The Sofia workshop was also concerned with plans for a comparative volume on *Emerging Party Systems and the European Context* on the basis of the ten papers that were presented. The presentations were grouped into three sessions concerned with (1) *Issues of Party System Institutionalisation*, (2) *Participation and Legitimacy*, and (3) *EU Influence and Comparative Issues*.

II.4.4. On December 11, 2008 CAS organised and hosted the presentation of the book *Studying Peoples in the People's Democracies II. Social Era Anthropology in South-East Europe* (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2008) - a volume dedicated to the state of the discipline in post-Communist Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria. Back in 2000-2003, its editors, Vintilă Mihăilescu, Ilia Iliev and

Slobodan Naumović, experts in the fields of national ethnology, sociology, and anthropology met in the framework of the *NEXUS* project and have ever since cooperated closely – and as this academic publication also plainly illustrated – most fruitfully. The book presentation attracted substantial attendance, by both senior academic staff and their junior colleagues in Bulgaria.

II.5. Publications

II.5.1. “We, the People. Politics of National Peculiarity in Southeastern Europe” (in English). The volume, edited by Diana Mishkova was published at the beginning of 2009 by the Central European University Press. The essays explore the political instrumentalization of the concepts of folk, people and ethnos in Southeast Europe during the “long 19th century” by mapping the discursive and institutional itineraries through which this set of notions became a focal point of cultural and political thought in various national contexts; a process that coincided with the emergence of political modernity. The originality of the approach lies in a combination of three factors: [a] seeing nation-building as a process that is to a large extent driven by intellectuals and writers, rather than just a side effect of infrastructural modernization processes; [b] looking at the regional, cross-border ramifications of these processes (rather than in a rigid single-country-by-country perspective) and [c] looking at the autonomous role of intellectuals in these areas, rather than just seeing Southeast Europe as an appendix to Europe-at-large, passively undergoing European influences. A product of transnational comparative teamwork, this collection represents a coordinated interpretation based on 10 varied academic cultures and traditions.

II.5.2. CAS publications in the C.E.E.O.L.

As a result of the well established partnership between CAS Library and the Central and Eastern European Online Library (C.E.E.O.L), CAS was offered the opportunity to include its own publications within the database for periodicals C.E.E.O.L. and the Online Distribution Platform for eBooks (DiBiDo) - an offer which comes as a positive sign of recognition for the quality of the work done at the Centre. Following the signing of the respective contract, *CAS Working Paper Series* was published in C.E.E.O.L., and *The Balkan XIXth Century and Reflection: Self-Referentiality in Epistemology and the Social World* was uploaded in DiBiDo. We are particularly pleased by the fact that the networking activities of our small selective Library come to serve not only for enhancing the research environment of CAS Fellows but also provide them with new options for increasing the publicity and visibility of their research work done at the Centre.

II.5.3. “Homo Byzantinus?” collection

The miscellany “*Homo Byzantinus?*” comprising the outcomes from the first cycle of Byzantine themes research at CAS (the *Homo Byzantinus* international workshop funded under the first grant by the A. W. Mellon Foundation) is currently being printed and is expected to be on the market soon.

II.6. CAS Library

In 2008 CAS Library expanded and updated its collections with monographs in the field of history and social sciences, also adding some new electronically accessible periodicals. We subscribed to high-quality online databases that greatly enhance and facilitate the research carried out at the Centre: *SAGE Journals Online*, *JSTOR*, *History-E-Book Project*, *Encyclopedia Britannica Online Academic*; *Voprosy Istorii* Journal. The library users also received access to

valuable foreign-language databases through free trials to *Taylor & Francis Journals*, *Open Platform SAGE eReference* and *Cambridge Journals*.

III. CAS ELECTRONIC PROJECTS - *Bridging Academic Excellence and Virtual Access*

Along its traditional academic initiatives (research projects and scholarship schemes) CAS strives to develop flexible and active communicational policy using the recently developed internet technologies. Through modern and open electronic channels, CAS tries to expand further its popularity and outreach among the scientific community. Our long-term objective is to create the prerequisites for bridging the gap between young academic activism, internet culture and the scholarly capital of senior researchers, their “academic maturity”, experience and accomplishments.

CAS Institutional Site - redesigning and technical optimization. At the end of 2008 CAS initiated a technical and visual update of its existing institutional webpage. Along with the graphical refreshment, the technical optimization was even more necessary for the CAS staff who maintains the site’s contents. The old system proved increasingly difficult and complicated for daily use and system and data crashes were not just rare occasions. The structuring of the data could not, eventually, reflect adequately the institutional and academic profile of CAS.

PhDGate (Integrated Electronic Database of the PhD Students in Bulgaria – www.phdgate.net) gives to young researchers from all scientific fields the opportunity to present their personal and academic profile and provides them with virtual access to specialized information, creates newsgroups and flexible mailing lists. 300 new PhD students registered in the database (1900 active users in total). The average number of unique visits to the site per month amounts to almost 10 000 and 24 000 pages are viewed by the visitors.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** (www.gate.cas.bg) provides the academic community with specialized internet space for its publications, comments and information exchanges. During the third year of its existence, the coordinator Dimitar Dimov carried out systematic campaigns among scholars to promote the *Academic Gateway* and the use of its services continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are 204 registered users – ranging from students to full professors. The average number of unique visits per month is nearly 1 200 and 4000 pages are viewed.

Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings (www.red.cas.bg) In addition to the catalogue of people, projects and institutions dealing with the *critical* reading of communist history and in addition to the adequate informational flow in this area, CAS aims at the stimulation of wider and more active debate on issues of communist legacies, their interpretation in today’s social and media environment. The gateway contains regularly updated bibliography grouped into different topics and genres (books, articles and archive documents – 590 titles). The webpage is regularly updated with news from the target research field. Statistics show that it is visited by 880 users per month and 2500 pages are viewed.

IV. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

In 2008/2009 CAS continued to pursue its visibility policies through its *Newsletter* which is currently being sent also in an electronic version, and is uploaded on our website. The popular *electronic projects* (see under III above) and the regular *CAS electronic bulletins*, targeting different generations of scholars at home and abroad, continue to contribute to the

Centre's publicity and popularity with scholars. CAS publications of research results via its electronic *Working Paper Series* is another, very democratic form of scholarly dissemination reaching a vast international audience. Nevertheless, as commented in the last year's CAS Report, despite of this new dissemination channels, CAS is intending to also pursue hardcopy publications for the distribution of the scientific research. The variety of *international public events* - workshops, conferences, guest-lectures - is yet another venue for promoting the work of our Centre.

16th April 2009