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Director

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**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA  
2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**I.1. CAS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

In 2011, the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia celebrates 10 years since its foundation. During that period it supported the work of over 200 researchers from more than 20 countries and a variety of disciplinary fields. Board Members, academic associates, supporters and friends of the Centre will gather in Sofia on 13 May 2011 on the occasion. The festivities will include a welcoming address at the Centre's premises, an academic roundtable with the participation of CAS Fellows, and a reception.

**I. 2. Personnel**

***I.2.1. Academic personnel***

The permanent academic personnel of CAS currently comprises four Academic Associates: Prof. Pepka Boyadjieva (Sociology), Assoc. Prof. Georgi Ganev (Economy), Prof. Georgi Kapriev (Medieval Philosophy) and Assoc. Prof. Diana Mishkova (History). No changes have been made since the last Board meeting in this department.

***I.2.2. Administrative personnel***

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

**I.3. Financial data**

Total	373 667.43 Euro
Research Expenses	278 271.62 Euro
Institutional Expenses	95 395.81 Euro

***I.3.1. Auditor's report***

The annual Auditor's Report, prepared in March 2010, 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**

In 2010/2011 CAS continued its collaboration with a number of local and international institutions, among them: Sofia University, the New Bulgarian University, the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Sofia), the Central European University (Budapest), Fribourg University (Switzerland), EUR-IAS especially with some IASs therein (New Europe College in Bucharest; Collegium Budapest, IWM in Vienna). The long-term institutional partnership with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin kept its vital role and intense pace during the past academic year.

On the academic side, an important new partner is the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, via which the future Swiss state financial subvention will be channelled. The practical framework of this cooperation will be charted in the second half of 2011. On the funding side, in 2010 CAS strengthened its collaboration with the America for Bulgaria Foundation (AFB) which provides funding for individual fellowships for Bulgarian scholars. It is our hope that the good results from the project will justify the extension of the *Advanced Academia Programme* grant after 2013.

CAS continues its membership in the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (CHCI) – a network for circulation of information and best practices related to the organizational and management dimensions of humanities centres and institutes. Currently it includes 154 member organizations from the USA, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific Rim. As member of the CHCI International Advisory Board, CAS Director Diana Mishkova took part in its Annual Meeting of the in Providence, USA (June 2010).

## **II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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

In the course of 2010/2011 CAS had **29 Fellows from 11 countries in the framework of 4 programmes and projects**

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

#### ***II.2.1. Regimes of Historicity and Discourses of Modernity and Identity, 1900-1945, in East-Central, Southeast and Northern Europe***

*Regimes of Historicity* was a two-year research project (2008-2010) hosted by CAS and supported by the Volkswagen Foundation (Germany), the Fritz Thyssen Foundation (Germany), the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Sweden) and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Germany). The project was convened by Prof. Diana Mishkova and involved the participation of three more Senior Fellows (Prof. Antonis Liakos, Prof. Bo Strath and Dr Balazs Trenszenyi). The academic programme focused 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” European regions: East-Central, Southeastern, and Northern Europe. The research programme offered, on an annual competitive basis, nine-month research fellowships for young researchers and PhD students to conduct their individual projects within this thematic framework.

Outcomes: The final year of the *Regimes of Historicity* project culminated in the concluding five-day colloquium which took place in the mountain resort of Ribaritsa in June 2010. Junior and Senior Fellows presented the outcomes of their individual research while two invited speakers contributed with papers and valuable comments to the overall discussions. Later in October, all final papers were submitted, thus rounding up the outcomes of the project which for the two years of its implementation produced as follows:

- 17 case studies by junior researchers;
- 4 case studies by the project convenor and the three other Senior Fellows;
- Presentations of the research results at international colloquia, workshops and a concluding conference, as well as at other international academic gatherings.

- A comprehensive scholarly report summing up the findings and outlining the theoretical contribution of the project, which will serve as a basis for the preface of the forthcoming collective publication;
- 21 papers edited and formatted for publication in the electronic *CAS Working Paper Series*. These will also be made publicly accessible via the Central Eastern European On-line Library ([www.ceeol.com](http://www.ceeol.com)). Negotiations with prestigious academic printing houses (Palgrave-Macmillan or Brill Publishers) are in progress.

*Follow-up:* The concluding conference in November 2010 which served as an open forum for introducing the project outcomes to a broader public also outlined the grounds and prospects for new research themes and cooperations. Its agenda developed into a platform for a second meeting on 9-10 April 2011, where ten internationally renowned scholars working on regionalism and regionalization in Europe and representing a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives participated. The latter workshop tested the available interest in pursuing, as a follow-up to the *Regimes of Historicity* project, a focus-group investigation and a joint publication addressing the question of how transnational historical regions in Europe have been, and are being, conceptualized over time, across different disciplines and academic traditions, in different fields of activity (politics, economy, international order) and national/regional contexts.

### ***II.2.2. Modernity and Identity Programme***

The two-year *Modernity and Identity* Programme was supported by the Bulgarian Science Fund – a recently established body to the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science providing financial support for frontier and ground-breaking studies in all disciplines.

Stretching over 2008-2010, the *Modernity and Identity* Programme offered three nine-month research fellowships per year to young Bulgarian scholars working in the field of the humanities and social sciences. Thanks to its broadly-defined thematic scope, the programme provided an opportunity for the Centre to introduce fellowships practically free from the strict thematic requirements characteristic of CAS' thematic projects. In the selection, the academic portfolio of the applicants and the quality of their proposals were the prime criteria.

*Project progress (May 2010-May 2011):* During their nine-month individual research, the *Modernity and Identity* Fellows were fully integrated in the academic programme and public events of the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia. In June 2010 they joined the final discussion of the outcomes of the *Regimes of Historicity* Fellows, and in the course of November and December 2010 they could also report on their research in internal open presentations in front of the *Advanced Academia* Fellows and CAS alumni. The final version of the Fellows' papers shall be submitted by April 2011.

*Obstacles created by the funding institution:* Although CAS and the individual researchers observed strictly the research plan and schedule as well as the academic and administrative responsibilities undertaken by force of the concluded agreement, the Bulgarian Science Fund (the donor) created major administrative obstacles to the successful completion of the programme.

## **II. 3. Ongoing and newly launched projects**

### ***II.3.1. Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe – Mid-Term Progress***

In April 2010 the *Negotiating Modernity* Project, funded by the European Research Council – Executive Agency entered its third year. The Project seeks to map the history of East Central European political thought from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first century. In the previous two years the project team had already successfully established the routine of the project, agreeing on common methodological premises, compiling comprehensive research bibliographies, setting up the structure (chapters and sub-chapters) of the volume, etc.

The focus in 2010 fell on preparing the sketch of the volume chapters and building up the contents of the intended volume. Elaborate drafts of individual chapters were created and discussed among the core group and the guest researchers representing different national academic traditions in Europe.

In 2010 the scholars met at three core meetings, organized in Sofia, Bucharest, and Warsaw, in March, June and October, respectively. Co-organized with the New Europe College, the Bucharest meeting was supplemented by a major international workshop on “Writing Intellectual History in East Central Europe: Interwar Romania in Regional and European Contexts”. In 2011 the team met twice (in January and March) to discuss the contents of the different chapters.

### ***II.3.2. Advanced Academia Programme***

The programme provides thematically independent individual fellowships for Bulgarian and international scholars from the humanities and the social sciences. It was launched in 2009 with the help of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, and in 2010, thanks to the support of a donator within the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus), it could be expanded to include international researchers as well. The invited Fellows participate in the intellectual life and the scholarly community of the Centre while working on projects of their own choice. They take part in the regular Fellow seminars, where they present and discuss their individual projects, and in the scholarly events organized by CAS. Due to the fact that CAS is currently in no position to provide its Fellows with a common place for working and living, we are seeking to complement the academic programme with various non-formal and community-building occasions, such as weekly “Fellow dinners”, outings, etc.

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

The 2010/2011 Call for Applications (still limited to Bulgarian scholars only) yielded a total of 21 applications, out of which 4 junior and 4 senior Fellows were selected. The 2010/2011 Fellows (working in the fields of history, philosophy, sociology, law, theory of culture and mass communications) met on a regular basis in the framework of the CAS Fellow Seminars to discuss the progress of their individual research and receive feedback from the Fellow community.

The 2011/2012 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) generated a total of 39 applications by Bulgarian scholars, and 93 applications by international scholars from four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America). Among those, the Academic Advisory Council selected 10 Bulgarian Fellows and 5 international Fellows for 2011/2012. The work of this group was launched at the beginning of March 2011 with an opening meeting introducing the Fellows to the philosophy and mode of operation of the programme.

2012-2013 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) was published and widely distributed electronically in March 2011 with a deadline 1 October 2011. Among the expected applicants, the CAS Academic Council will have to select 8 Bulgarian and 4 to 7 foreign Fellows.

Additional funding: Two of the 2011/2012 Fellows will be funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation which granted its permission to use part of the savings under the *Regimes of Historicity* Project for the *Advanced Academia* independent fellowship programme. As a result, CAS will be able to fund two additional fellowships for Bulgarian researchers, increasing the outreach and the impact of the programme (the number Bulgarian Fellows for the pilot three-year period will thus grow to 26).

Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series: Starting in March 2011, CAS set off a series of *Public Lectures* aimed at presenting the results from the *Advanced Academia* Fellows’ research to a wider academic and interested audience. The first five lectures from the series provoked strong interest, gathering an audience of between 50 to 100 attendees from various academic fields and institutions.

Our intention is to make this lecture series an ongoing event – with the expectation that it would help increase considerably the local visibility of both CAS Fellows (and their work) and the Centre itself

*Other related outcomes:* As evidence of the opportunities generated by the dynamics of this Fellow exchange, we can mention the *Rule of Law* discussion series spurred by Dr. Ivo Hristov's presentation on the same topic. The issues which the latter raised attracted the interest of other Bulgarian scholars, who consequently initiated a series of *Rule of Law* seminars (for more details, please refer to section **II.5.1. Rule of Law Discussion Series**), with the intention that the papers presented get published in a collective volume on this locally resounding topic.

### ***II.3.3. The Memory of Byzantium: The Byzantine “Memory Machine” – a research group hosted by CAS and funded by the A.W. Mellon Foundation, USA***

The members of the *Byzantium Working Group* continued their work on the translation of and commentaries to texts in Old Greek and Latin. The Group's meeting was held in autumn 2010.

As part of the Group's activities, Dr Vesselina Vachkova published her monograph entitled “*Blank Spaces in the Bulgarian Cultural Memory*”. A special issue of the series *Mediaevalia Christiana* (“Different Regions, ‘Faces’, Approaches”) edited by Tsvetelin Stepanov and Georgi Kazakov was also published in 2010.

## **II.4. Submitted research project applications**

### ***II.4.1. CAS applications***

#### ***Historical Legacy, Institutional Continuity and Economic Development – Research Programme for the Balkans (“North-Tolstoy Hypothesis”)***

In October 2010 an application was filed with the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany, under the above title (the decision is expected any moment now). The thematic frame was proposed and elaborated by CAS Academic Associate Prof. Georgi Ganev. An exploratory international workshop, aimed at probing the available interest and expertise in the chosen field (February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, CAS) was instrumental for (re-)defining the regional scope and the ways to approach the research hypothesis. The envisaged project duration is 3 years. The research will be carried out by the convener together with another four senior Fellows and 15 junior Fellows to be selected annually (5 per year) via open Calls for Applications.

### ***II.4.2. Applications in partnerships***

#### ***Cross-European and Caucasian Network for Interdisciplinary Study of Nationalism in Popular Culture – Capacity-building and Research Promotion (Subtitle: Pop-Nationalism: The Recycling of National Passions through Cultural Practices)***

In March 2011 an application was submitted to the SCOPES programme (Swiss National Science Foundation) envisaging the promotion of institutional partnerships (rather than sheer research). The proposed cooperation aims to expand, and build upon, the results from a previous collaborative IP under SCOPES carried out by the University of Fribourg (*Seminar für Zeitgeschichte*) and the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia, and titled “*Institutionalization of Scientific Networks and Scholarly Activities for the Promotion of Cross-Cultural and Inter-Disciplinary Approaches on Nationalism in the Europe of Small Nations*” (2005-2008). The Swiss coordinator under the new project application is the *Seminar für Sozialanthropologie at University of Fribourg*. A specific trait of the last Call is that Bulgarian institutions cannot at present be the sole non-Swiss partner – the programme requires the participation of institutions from a set of regions of current priority. Thus, the Swiss and the Bulgarian institutions will collaborate with two more partners: the *Institute for Contemporary History in Belgrade* (Serbia) and the *International School for Caucasus Studies at Ilia State University* (Georgia). This partnership seeks to foster, over a three-year period, a multilateral network of institutions and researchers to develop interdisciplinary comparative methods in the studies of “nationalism as a form of popular culture” – a thematic frame proposed and elaborated by CAS

Fellow Prof. Ivaylo Dichev. The activities, which are primarily directed to younger scholars, envisage teaching and research exchanges, networking, curriculum development and preparation of publications. The outcome of the application is expected by the autumn of 2011.

Again with regard to the changing framework of the SCOPES programme, we hope the fact that CAS and the Serbian partner institute are non-state, independent research entities, will not disqualify the proposal.

## **II.5. Other academic activities**

### ***II.5.1. Conferences co-organized with and hosted by CAS***

In addition to the CAS project-related conferences, other similar events were co-organized with two high-profile research and cultural institutions.

#### ***II.5.1.1. Establishment of National Legal Systems in Post-Ottoman Southeastern Europe. Deconstruction, Formation and Transfer of Normativity***

In October 2010, CAS hosted a meeting of the Bulgarian team working under the international project *Establishment of National Legal Systems in Post-Ottoman Southeastern Europe. Deconstruction, Formation and Transfer of Normativity*, co-ordinated by the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt/Main, Germany. The meeting was convened by Dr Jani Kirov, research fellow at Max Planck Institute and member of the project leading team. The Project examines the formation of the national legal systems in post-Ottoman Turkey, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria at a particular historical stage, when the countries were confronted with an imagined future calling for radical transformations. The Bulgarian project team is represented by Prof. Ivo Hristov (Plovdiv University), Prof. Dr. Nadja Danova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Prof. Rossitsa Gradeva (American University in Blagoevgrad and Institute for Balkan Studies), Dr Martin Belov (Sofia University), Dr Ralitsa Kostadinova (New Bulgarian University), Dr Svetla Baloutzova (New Bulgarian University) and Dr Teodora Purveva (Brussels).

#### ***II.5.1.2. “New Narratives for Europe” conference, co-organized with the European Cultural Foundation, the Netherlands***

An international conference on “New Narratives for Europe” was held at CAS on 18 November 2010, co-organized with the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam). The conference is part of a three-year initiative of exploring the collective stories and representations of Europe at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The ensuing discussion demonstrated how difficult it was to talk about ‘the’ Eastern or ‘the’ Western perspectives. The numerous cultural differences between the nations of (former) Eastern Europe, along with the lack of solidarity between those states, showed that one cannot speak of a monolithic Eastern entity. Nonetheless, normative labels like West and East have been taken for granted by many Europeans, not aware of their power.

## **II.6. CAS Discussion Series**

### ***II.6.1. Rule of Law – the Failing of Law-Bound State in Bulgaria***

The idea for compiling a volume under the title “*Rule of Law – the Failing of Law-Bound State in Bulgaria*” comes as a result of the CAS Discussion Series “Consolidation/Disintegration of Public Institutions and Political Process”, which was convened on a regular monthly basis at the Center for Advanced Study Sofia within the period 2008-2010. The volume is genealogically related to a recently completed CAS international project, “Shaken Order: Authority and Social Trust in Post-Communist Societies – Case Studies in Law”. One of the most acute and pressing problems of the Bulgarian transition period appear to be the ubiquitous failing of rule of law in nearly all its basic dimensions. This problem has its practical manifestations at both “high” political and everyday level. Against this background, the presence of a multitude of existing interpretations on the nature and causes for the relevance of the topic is symptomatic: it is obvious that behind the specifics of the current situation in Bulgaria there is a deep and fundamental social problem that cannot be explained,

understood or interpreted with the resources of the prevailing “technical” (or contingent) discourse, but requires a thorough socio-historical scientific reflection.

Participating scholars and prospective authors include: Dr Ivo Hristov (Plovdiv University), project convener of the *Shaken Order Project* and the *Consolidation/Disintegration Discussion Series*. The other participants are CAS former Fellows Dr Petya Kabakchieva (Sofia University), Dr Atanas Slavov (Sofia University), Dr Martin Kanushev (New Bulgarian University), Dr Daniel Smilov (Sofia University) as well as Dr Ivan Bilyarski (Institute of History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Dr Venelin Ganev (Department of Political Science, Miami University, USA) and Dr Linka Toneva (Sofia University). The volume will be published as part of the *Research Forum Series* of the Centre for Advanced Studies and the RIVA Publishers. The publication of the volume is expected in autumn 2011.

### **II.6.2. Discussion Series “The 1930s Club”**

*The 1930s Club* is a discussion forum conceived by CAS associates Dr Georgi Ganev and Dr Martin Ivanov and aimed at providing an intellectual milieu to scholars from various academic branches working on the 1930s period in Bulgarian and Balkan history. Its establishment was motivated by a generally shared feeling that, despite the bulging studies on the pre-communist past in historiography, the social history of the 1930s is still largely under-explored and remains an important *terra incognita* awaiting its ‘discoverers’.

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Dr Ganev and Dr Ivanov opened the new discussion series with a lecture on *Bulgaria’s 1930s from an Economic Perspective*. Based on the ‘hard’ data of statistical analysis, they presented their results on the agricultural innovations, consumer practices and purchasing power in the 1930s. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010, the *Club* organised a half-day seminar on social, welfare and demographic policies generated in the 1930s and ‘spilling over’ to the early 1940s. The seminar centred on the papers of Dr Svetla Baloutzova (New Bulgarian University), Prof. Kristina Popova and Dr Miglena Angelova (South-West University, Blagoevgrad). Drawing on the perspective of contemporaries, the three studies outlined state and local government initiatives in the welfare sector. Dr Baloutzova’s paper, *Bulgaria’s Population Policy from an International Perspective*, elaborated on the demographic anxieties about Bulgaria’s dropping birth rate. Prof. Popova’s paper, *Bulgaria’s State Rural Policies in the Welfare Field*, charted the state activities in the Bulgarian countryside following the 1934 Public Assistance Act. Dr Angelova’s presentation, *The Affirmation of Modern Methods of Work in the Public Welfare Sector*, offered a case-study of a ‘typical’ Bulgarian model-village of the 1930s, dissecting various aspects of its health sector.

### **II.7. Publications resulting from CAS projects or discussion series**

#### **II.7.1. “Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945)” Vol.3/Parts 1 and 2. Central European University Press: 2010**

This is the third volume, published in two parts, under the four-volume series resulting from the CAS project *Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe 1770-1945* (“*Identity Reader*”). The volume is edited by CAS former Fellows Vangelis Kechriotis (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul), Maciej Górny (Warsaw University), Ahmet Ersoy (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul) and is published by CEU Press in 2010.

The first part of the third volume, *Modernism - The Creation of Nation-States*, CEU Press 2010 includes and analyses 59 texts (pp. 486). This volume presents the development of the ideologies of nation states, the “modern” successors of former empires, and exemplifies the use of modernist ideological frameworks, from liberalism to socialism, in the context of the fundamental reconfiguration of the political system in this part of Europe between the 1860s and the 1930s. The book is structured around the following chapters: Introduction by Maria Todorova; Chapter I. Making of the modern state in a multi-national context; Chapter II. Self-determination, democratization, and the homogenizing state; Chapter III. "National projects" and their regional

framework; Chapter IV. Federalism and the decline of the empires; Chapter V. Socialism and the nationality question.

The second part of the third volume, *Modernism - Representations of National Culture* (pp. 392), comprises and discusses 51 texts illustrating the evolution of modernism in Eastern Europe. It focuses on the literary and scientific attempts at squaring the circle of individual and collective identities in the region, often within an outspokenly critical attitude to the romantic episteme. It also presents the ways national minorities sought to legitimize their existence with reference to their cultural and institutional peculiarity. The volume contains the following chapters: Chapter I. Cultural modernization: Institutionalization of "national sciences"; Chapter II. The "Critical turns": Subverting the Romantic narratives; Chapter III. Literary representations of the "national character"; Chapter IV. Aesthetic modernism and collective identities; Chapter V. Regionalism, autonomism and the minority identity-building narratives.

### ***II.7.2. "Childhood under Socialism – Political, Institutional and Biographical Perspectives", CAS/Riva: Sofia 2010 (pp. 207)***

2010 witnessed the coming out of *Childhood under Socialism* – a study of Bulgaria's recent past through the eyes and the experiences of children, edited by CAS Fellow Prof. Ivan Elenkov and Prof. Daniela Koleva (Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History and Theory of Culture). The chapters in the book draw on a workshop summoned by the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia in 2008 which brought together the members of the *Atelier for Biographical Research* and the *History Club*. The collection comprises ten research papers and a comprehensive introduction by I. Elenkov, K. Popova and D. Koleva. The book's objective is to delineate a new field of study marked by the junction of two rapidly evolving disciplines – the history of childhood and the history of socialism in recent Bulgarian historiography. The book tries to analyse the variety of political, social, and existential angles and positions intersecting in the field, and to excite further questions and original research.

### ***II.7.3 CAS Working Paper Series***

At the beginning of 2011 CAS published *Issues 3* and *4* of its *Working Paper Series*.

***"We, the People. Politics of National Peculiarity in Southeastern Europe"*** – the research outcomes of the scholars participating in the project were published electronically on the CAS website. The project was organized in cooperation with Collegium Budapest and with the support of the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, the German Federal Foreign Office and the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany.

The fourth issue presented the results from yet another completed CAS projects: ***Shaken Order: Authority and Social Trust in Post-Communist Societies (Case Studies in Law)***, a CAS project supported by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe and the Rule of Law Program South East Europe of Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Germany.

Both of the issues underwent language editing and were formatted for electronic publication with CAS' institutional resources. Both issues have been uploaded in the Central and East European Online Library (CEEOL).

## **II.8. Public events**

### ***II.8.1. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series***

The *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* was launched on 15 March 2010 and was held on a weekly basis at the Sofia City Library in March through May. The lectures attracted a considerable academic audience representing all major universities, human and social-science institutes in Sofia.

### ***II.8.2. Guest Lectures***

### ***II.8.2.1. Prof. Dimitrios Stamatopoulos: The Byzantium after the Nation: The problem of the continuity in the Balkan Historiographies***

In his lecture Prof. Dimitrios Stamatopoulos (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece) explained the historical significance of Byzantium as seen through the eyes of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Balkan historiography. He elaborated on the scholarly perceptions, interpretations, and the purposeful, ideologically-charged utilisation of the Byzantine imperial model in contrast to the subsequent Ottoman present. Prof. Stamatopoulos posed the poignant question whether the medieval Byzantine past had not been exploited for the reconstruction and even 'correction' and invention of national Balkan histories in an era of fervent nation-building in Southeastern Europe. A special merit of the lecture was the speaker's approach to Balkan historiographies *per se*. By merging the methods of comparative history and a cross-national perspective, he chose to explore local national historiographies jointly rather than separately, and thus managed to recreate an image of their coherent regional whole.

### ***II.8.2.2. Prof. Galin Tihanov: Cosmopolitanism in the Landscape of Modernity***

The lecture of Prof. Galin Tihanov (University of Manchester, UK), a member of the CAS Academic Advisory Council, offered a historical typology identifying three major ways in which the term 'cosmopolitanism' has been understood and used. The lecture centred on the genealogies of modern cosmopolitanism as a body of discourses and social practices. Professor Tihanov drew on different philosophical traditions to theorise cosmopolitanism as a diverse rather than a uniform political discourse, with multiple, layered meanings. Central to his discussion were concepts such as methodological nationalism, distributive justice, and human rights. He also reflected on the notion of *enforced cosmopolitanism*, viewed from the perspective of exile and exilic experiences.

## ***II.8.3. Book Launches***

### ***II.8.3.1. "Childhood under Socialism – Political, Institutional and Biographical Perspectives"***

The book (CAS/Riva Publ. publication outlined above, II.7.2) was presented to a large audience at CAS on 14 December 2010 by writer Dr. Georgi Gospodinov and historian Dr. Mihail Gruev.

### ***II.8.3.2. "Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Macedonia"***

Dr Dimitar Bechev is Research Fellow at the European Studies Centre at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, and a Lecturer in International Relations at Worcester College, Oxford, UK. In January 2010, he and Dr Tchavdar Marinov, a social scientist and a former CAS Fellow CAS, introduced Dr Bechev's new book, *Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Macedonia*. The volume demonstrates an unconventional approach to historical institutions, geographical locations and personalities that bear a meaning in a Macedonian, Bulgarian, Albanian and Serbian context.

### ***II.8.3.3. Blank Spaces in Bulgarian Cultural Memory***

On 2 July 2010 Dr Vesselina Vachkova presented her latest scholarly work, *Blank Spaces in Bulgarian Cultural Memory* (2010) at CAS. Vachkova's monograph addresses the so-called 'blank spaces' in Bulgarian cultural memory, analysing the particular historical prerequisites and temporal dimensions that caused their appearance, and exploring the reasons behind their sustained manifestation in Bulgarian history.

In 2010 Dr Vachkova was selected as a senior CAS Fellow under the Advanced Academia Programme (Oct. 2011–Feb. 2012).

## ***II.9. CAS Library***

### ***II.9.1. Development of book collections***

The contemporary trend in the development of the library collections is based on the organizational method *just in time* (obtaining books at the moment when they are needed). CAS Library closely

follows this new trend by collecting books and materials for on-going CAS projects. Thus within the framework of the projects *Advanced Academia*, *Regimes of Historicity*, and *Modernity and Identity* CAS Library has ran 42 orders of current Fellows in conjunction with their research projects. Altogether in the course of 2010 the Library acquired 122 new books in the field of social sciences.

CAS Library has continued the tradition to collect CAS Fellows' and associates' publications. This valuable collection was considerably enlarged during the year 2010 with monographs of the newly selected and of former Fellows.

### ***II.9.2.Databases***

A few years ago CAS library started the establishing of online electronic collections. The "virtual" model of development proved to be successful, since CAS library users more often consult the databases rather than the traditional paper editions. CAS Library offers free access for its fellows to the following databases: SAGE, JSTOR, EBSCO, Questia, Encyclopedia Britannica Online Academic, Voprosy Istorii, ACLS Humanities E-Book. A telling testimony to the fact that the databases are the most valuable resources of the Library is the usage statistics. The database Questia, for instance, was consulted by CAS Library users more than **2541 times** during the year 2010. That is why ensuring the continued subscription of databases is among the priorities of CAS Library.

### ***II.10. CAS Electronic Projects: Bridging Academic Excellence and Virtual Access***

Context: Along its traditional academic initiatives (research projects and scholarships) CAS strives to develop a flexible and active communication policy using modern internet technologies. Through up-to-date and open electronic channels CAS tries to expand further its popularity and outreach among the scientific community.

Strategic Goal: CAS long-term objective is to create the prerequisites for building up a stable bridge between academic interactivity characteristic of the up-and-coming generations of scholars, internet culture and the scientific capital of senior researchers for sharing professional experiences and achievements.

**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 and provides them with virtual access to specialized information, creates newsgroups and flexible mailing lists. Three hundred new PhD students registered in the database (2100 active users in total). Monthly the average unique visits to the site are **27,304**, and **133,476** pages are viewed. The project is currently provided for by CAS' institutional resources.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** ([www.gate.cas.bg](http://www.gate.cas.bg)) grants the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the fourth year of its existence the CAS coordinator, Dimiter Dimov, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are **365** registered users, all of them academics. The average unique visits are nearly **6,283** per year, and more than **41,635** pages have been 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 catalogue of people, projects and institutions dealing with the critical reading of communist history and in addition to the adequate informational flux in this area CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the issues of communist legacies, their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography filed within different topics and genres (books, articles and archive documents – **739** titles). The web-page is regularly fed with news from the targeted research field. Statistics show that annually it is visited by **7,052** users and **23,382** pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

### III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

In 2010/2011 CAS continued to pursue its visibility policies through its *Newsletter* which is being printed and widely distributed as well as uploaded on our website. The popular *electronic projects* (see previous section) targeting different generations of scholars at home and abroad continue to contribute to the Centre's publicity and visibility among scholars. CAS' publication of research results via its electronic *Working Paper Series* and via C.E.E.O.L. are other forms of scholarly dissemination reaching a vast international audience. Apart from these electronic dissemination channels, CAS has put special effort into pursuing as many hardcopy publications of its project research results as possible. The variety of *international public events* – workshops, conferences, guest-lectures, are another venue for promoting the work of the Centre.

The newly launched *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* should be mentioned here as yet another important public “outlet” for the intellectual yield of CAS. The series has fast become very popular, attracting many attendees and evoking a lively response from the audience. This is especially the case with Fellows' lectures on topical issues, resonating strongly with current themes of interest for the academia and society at large.

Furthermore, influential electronic publications in Bulgarian and German periodicals – e.g. *Public Republic* (an international electronic cultural platform published in German), as well as a special radio broadcast, were dedicated to CAS and its activities.

CAS will also utilize the forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in view of increasing public awareness of the activities and importance of the Centre. In this relation, we are actively collaborating with all key journalists and medias dedicated to culture and scholarship.

CAS Sofia

13 April 2011