

Conference

Shared Histories, Divergent Experiences: Romania and Bulgaria in the Totalitarian Era

**11 June 2026
Sofia**



**Institute of Balkan Studies & Centre of Thracology,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:10 **OPENING REMARKS**

10:10 – 11:10

PANEL 1

POLITICAL ELITES, IDEOLOGY, AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM

Chair: Florin Abraham

Alexandru Cristian Voicu (NIST & The National Museum of Romanian History)

“A Revolutionary as Intermediary: Cristian Racovski’s Relations with German Intelligence.”

Alexandre Kostov (IBCT)

“French-trained Engineers and the Post-1945 Regime in Bulgaria.”

Cristina Diac (NIST)

“Tsola Dragoicheva, ‘La Pasionaria of the Balkans,’ and Romania, 1944-1957.”

Carmen Stratone (NIST)

“Through the Eyes of the Other.” Romanian-Bulgarian Cultural Exchanges in the Early Years of Socialist Realism.”

11:10 – 11:30 **DISCUSSION**

11:30 – 11:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:45 – 12:30

PANEL 2

SOCIETY, CULTURE, AND EVERYDAY LIFE UNDER COMMUNISM

Chair: Aneta Mihaylova

Corina Doboş (NIST)

“International Symposium on the Problems of Human Reproduction. Varna, Bulgaria (1968): troubling fertility dynamics in the Eastern Bloc.”

Dobrinka Parusheva (IBCT / Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”)

“Totalitarianism in Bulgaria and Romania Depicted Visually.”

Liudmila Mindova (IBCT)

“Children and Dictatorship: on Novels by Gabriela Adameşteanu, Ruta Sepetys, Evgenia Krasteva-Blagoeva and Theodora Dimova.”

12:30 – 12:45 **DISCUSSION**

12:45 – 13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

13:30 – 14:15

PANEL 3

HUMAN RIGHTS, DISSENT, AND INTERNATIONAL
DIMENSIONS OF LATE SOCIALISM

Chair: Cristina Diac

Mioara Anton (NIST & “Nicolae Iorga” Historical Institute)

*“British Strategies for the Balkans. Margaret Thatcher’s
Visit to Bucharest and Sofia (August-September 1975).”*

Aneta Mihaylova (IBCT)

*“After Helsinki: Human Rights, Minority Rights,
and Dissent in Communist Bulgaria and Romania.”*

Kaloyan Konstantinov (IBCT)

“Split between Bulgaria and Romania: Iranian Influence in the Totalitarian Era.”

14:15 – 14:30 DISCUSSION

14:30 – 14:45 COFFEE BREAK



14:45 – 15:30

PANEL 4

LEGACIES OF COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNIST REASSESSMENTS

Chair: Alexandre Kostov

Florin Abraham (NIST & NSPSA)

*“Transitional Justice in Romania and Bulgaria: A
Comparative Assessment in a Regional Context.”*

Constantin Buchet (NIST & NSPSA)

*“The Scientific Approach on South Eastern
Communism: Experience of COMDOS and CNSAS.”*

Florin-Răzvan Mihai (NIST)

*“Kosovo in Romanian Diplomatic Analyses:
Sovereignty, Autonomy, and Regional Stability.”*

15:30 – 15:45 DISCUSSION

15:45 – 16:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS



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