



Fulbright International Seminar

Sofia, September 24 – 30, 2019

Strategies for Strengthening Democracy: 30 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall (TENTATIVE)

Sofia, [Hotel Central](#), 52 Hristo Botev Street

September 23 Monday – arrivals

September 24, Tuesday

Topic: The State of Europe 30 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall

9:00-9:15 Official Opening

Keynote Lectures:

9:15 -10:15 (TBC) Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, European Parliament

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee Break

Historical Perspective of the 30-year Democratic Transition for Eastern Europe:

10:45 – 11:45 Prof. Evgeny Dainov – New Bulgarian University

11:45 – 12:45 (TBC) Cambridge History Department

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

14:00 – 16:30 [Visit to Bulgarian National History Museum](#)

16:30 – 18:00 Walking Tour of Sofia (optional)

19:00 -21:00 Welcome Reception ([Arena Di Serdika Amphitheatre](#))

September 25, Wednesday

Cultural Activities: visit to Plovdiv, Cultural Capital of Europe for 2019

15:00 – 16:00 **Dr. Iskren Ivanov** - Sofia University, “Bulgarian Orthodox Church during Communism”, lecture at [Plovdiv Regional History Museum](#)

Return to Sofia

September 26, Thursday

Topic: Real versus Façade Democracy

Keynote Lectures:

- 9:00 -10:15** **Dr. Victor Andrusiv** - Ukrainian Institute for the Future
- 10:15 -10:30** **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 – 11:45** **Prof. Emilia Zankina** - American University in Bulgaria
- 11:45 – 12:45** (TBC) Anti-Corruption Expert, Ukraine
- 12:45 – 13:45** **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 16:00** **Panel discussion: Dimensions of Façade Democracy in Eastern Europe**
Assoc. Prof. Stoycho Stoychev – Sofia University
Prof. Lyubov Mincheva – Sofia University
Judge Evgeny Georgiev – Sofia Regional Court
Judge Dragos Calin, Bucharest Court of Appeal, Romania
- 16:00 – 16:30** **Coffee Break**
- 16:30 - 18:00** **Workshop: Strategies for Countering Façade Democracy**
(Leaders – Ukrainian Institute for the Future)
- 18:00 – 19:30** **Dinner**

September 27, Friday

Topic: The Role of Truth in Strengthening Democracy

Keynote Lectures:

- 9:00 -10:15** **Prof. Plamen Makariev** – Sofia University, “An Ideal of Unmanipulated Public Communication”
- 10:15 -10:45** **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 – 12:00** **Prof. Dimitar Vatsov** – New Bulgarian University, “Anti-Liberal Discourses and Propaganda Messages in Bulgaria”

- 12:00 – 13:00** **Lunch**
- 13:30 -15:00** **Panel Discussion: The Role of Truth and Freedom of Speech in Strengthening Democracy**
- Prof. Mariya Nejkova** – Sofia University, Overview of Media Landscape
- Mr. Ruslan Trad**, Conflict Journalist
- Prof. Velizar Shalamanov** – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- 15:00 – 15:30** **Coffee Break**
- 15:30 - 17:30** **Workshop: Strategies for Countering Hybrid Info Attacks**
- (Leaders - Prof. Plamen Makariev – Sofia University and Maria Kostova, Fulbright Commission)
- 18:00 – 19:30** **Dinner**

September 28, Saturday

Topic: Social Cohesion and Justice

Keynote Lectures:

- 9:00 - 10:00** **Mr. John Beyrle** – US Diplomat, Former Ambassador to Bulgaria
- 10:00 – 11:00** **Mr. Eric Rubin** - US Diplomat, Former Ambassador to Bulgaria
- 11:00 -11:30** **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 – 12:30** **Prof. Yantsislav Yanakiev** – Bulgarian Defense Institute "Prof. Tsvetan Lazarov", "Building Societal Resilience to Counter Hybrid Threats"
- 12:30 – 13:30** **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Panel Discussion: Best Practices for Social Cohesion and Justice**
- EU representation in Bulgaria -
- Center for Monitoring of Justice (Mr. Lyubomir Avdjiiski)
- “Arete” Youth Foundation (Ms. Radostina Chaprazova – TBC)
- 15:30 – 16:00** **Coffee Break**



- 16:00 – 17:30** **Workshop: Strategies for Strengthening Civil Society**
(Leaders – Ms. Lena Borislavova, Harvard University and Ms. Alexandrina Dimitrova, Cedar Foundation)
- 17:30 - 18:30** **Bulgarian Folk Dancing Class**
- 18:30 - 19:30** **Dinner**

September 29, Sunday

Topic: The Role of Empathy and Humanism in Democracy

Keynote Lectures:

- 9:00 -10:00** **Prof. Julia Stefanova** – Sofia University, “Empathy, Deliberation and Democracy in Present Day Bulgaria?”
- 10:00 – 11:00** (TBC) Georgi Gospodinov – Bulgarian award-winning writer
- 11:00 – 11:30** **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 - 13:00** **Panel discussion: Best Practices of Inclusion and Moral Education**
Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria “Shalom” (Mr. Maxim Delchev)
Orthodox Priest
Muslim Religious Representative
Catholic Representative
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Workshop: Brainstorming on Social Inclusion Campaigns**
(Leader - **Prof. Maya Cholakova**, South West University)
- 15:30 - 17:00** **Work-groups prepare for best practices presentations**
- 19:00 – 21:00** **Farewell Reception**

September 30, Monday

- 9:00 – 11:00** **Best Practices and Strategies: Working Groups Presentations**
- 11:00 – 11:30** **Official Closing**