



## 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 Dr. Damian Valdez – Faculty of History, Cambridge University, UK**

**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** - "Captured Democracy: Ukrainian Lessons for the Future", Ukrainian Institute for the Future
- 10:15 -10:30**      **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 – 11:45**      **Prof. Emilia Zankina** – “Democratic Governance in Bulgaria after EU Accession”, American University in Bulgaria
- 11:45 – 12:45**      (TBC) Anti-Corruption Expert
- 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) Mr. Dimitar Kenarov – Bulgarian 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 (Dr. Arif Abdulah – TBC)

Evangelic Representative (Mr. Evegenny Naydenov – TBC)

**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**