



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 – 17:00 Walking Tour: Sofia Communist Tour

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** **Dr. Reynaldo Ortiz** - (anti-corruption strategies), City University of New York
- 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:

9:30 - 11:00 **Mr. John Beyrle** – 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

Fred Rooney – Attorney at Law, US Fulbright Scholar

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) Prof. Vladimir Levchev – 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 (-TBC)

Muslim Religious Representative (Dr. Arif Abdulah – TBC)

Evangelic Representative (Mr. Evegenny Naydenov)

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**