

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 Sepetyis, 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