



International Conference on the 40th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster

## The Radioactive Decay of the Iron Curtain: Re-Examination of the Chernobyl Catastrophe in Comparative Perspective

**Date:** 17-18 April 2026

**Venue:** New Bulgarian University, Sofia (University Library “Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov”)

“Montevideo” Str. No. 21, 1618 Sofia

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rjdBN2wE3YmEC5BQ7>

17 April (Friday) 2026

09:00 – 09:30

*Registration*

09:30 – 10:00

Opening: **Prof. Vesselin Metodiev**, President of the NBU Board of Trustees;

Greetings: **Dr. Julian Popov**, Minister of Environment and Water, Her Excellency Ukrainian Ambassador in Sofia **Mrs. Olesia Ilashchuk**, **Dr. Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes**, Head of the “Konrad Adenauer” Foundation in Bulgaria

**First panel:**

***Chernobyl – Sudden or Time Bomb Explosion?***

***Moderator: Hristo Todorov***

10:00 – 11:00

**Dimitar Vatsov** (New Bulgarian University): *After Chernobyl: The Moral Bankruptcy of Bulgarian State Socialism*

**Jose Tapia** (Drexel University): *The Chernobyl Disaster and the Mortality Crisis in Eastern Europe and the former USSR*

11:00 – 11:30

Discussion

11:30 – 11:45

*Coffee break*

**Second panel**

***Information and Secrecy***

***Moderator: Hristo Gyoshev***

11:45 – 13:00

**Momchil Metodiev** (New Bulgarian University): *The Role of Bulgarian State Security in the Decision-Making Process*

**Tymur Lavrenchuk** (Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine): *How the KGB, Stasi, and BND Framed the Chernobyl Disaster*

**Tomasz Lewandowski** (University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poznan): *State Secrecy and Positive Obligations: Articles 2 and 8 ECHR as a Legal Framework for Environmental Transparency*



**Stoyko Petkov** (New Bulgarian University): *Official Media Outlets and Chernobyl in Bulgaria - Between Secrecy and Misinformation*

13:15 – 13:45

Discussion

13:45 – 15:00

Lunch break

**Third panel**

**The Return of Chernobyl**

**Moderator: Dimitar Vatsov**

15:00 – 15:30

Keynote speaker: **Serhii Plokyh** (University of Harvard): *The Return of Chernobyl: Atoms for Peace at the Time of War*

15:30 – 16:00

**Sergii Mirnyi** (Chornobyl liquidator and Ukrainian intellectual): *Chornobyl: Survive, Understand, Narrate, Overcome*

16:00 – 16:30

Discussion

16:30 – 16:45

Coffee break

16:45 – 18:15

Film screening: *Chronicles of the Inconvenient Truth*, presented by its creators **Atanas Krastanov** and **Kaloyan Nikolov**

18:15 – 18:45

Book launch: **Dimitar Vatsov** „**The Bulgarian Chernobyl: Archaeology of Moral Bankruptcy**”

18:45 – 19:00

Discussion

Dinner: 20:00

18 April (Saturday) 2026

**Fourth panel**

**Handling “Chernobyls”**

**Moderator: Jose Tapia**

09:30 – 10:30

**Dimiter Sht. Dimov** (New Bulgarian University): *The Chernobyl Disaster as a Tipping Point: Ecological Governance of Communist Bulgaria*

**Angela Liberatore** (European University Institute): *Learning from Chernobyl? International Handling of Nuclear Risks during Peace and War*

**Jim F. Malone** (Trinity College Dublin): *Accountability in the Radiation Regulatory System during the Century and the Ground for a New Chernobyl*

10:30 – 11:00

Discussion

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee break

**Fifth panel**

**Chernobyl Diffusion in Society**

**Moderator: Metodi Metodiev**

11:15 – 12:55	<p><b>Dalma Boldog</b> (Budapest University of Economics and Business): <i>Chernobyl and the Hungarian Media</i></p> <p><b>Emrullah Ecer</b> (University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Wrocław, Poland): <i>State and Society Reactions to the News of the Chernobyl Explosion: Reconstruction of Institutional Chains of Command and the History of (Mis)Management</i></p> <p><b>Stamen Kanev</b> (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies and Ethnographic Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences): <i>After the Radiation: Chernobyl and Bulgarian Society</i></p> <p><b>Lucrezia Cinella</b> (University of Macerata): <i>Catastrophe and Normalised Risk. Youth Perceptions between Chernobyl and ILVA</i></p> <p><b>Tsvetomira Antonova</b> (New Bulgarian University): <i>Teaching Chernobyl in History Classes: Between Facts, Propaganda and Memory</i></p>
12:55 – 13:25	Discussion
13:25 – 14:30	Lunch break
<b>Sixth panel</b> <i>How do we tell Chernobyl?</i> <b>Moderator: Momchil Metodiev</b>	
14:30 – 15:50	<p><b>Dina Iordanova</b> (University of St. Andrews): <i>Accident at Chernobyl - the Early Films</i></p> <p><b>Philine Bickhardt</b> (University of Zurich): <i>Narrating Chornobyl in Documentary Aesthetic Practices: Svetlana Alexievich between Soviet Memory and Postcolonial Reinterpretation</i></p> <p><b>Petia Alexandrova</b> (New Bulgarian University): <i>The Absence of the Chernobyl Accident in Bulgarian Documentary Cinema until 1989</i></p> <p><b>Moris Fadel</b> (New Bulgarian University): <i>Disaster and Ideology: Venko Markovski's Poem "Chernobyl"</i></p>
15:50 – 16:20	Discussion
16:20 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Students Workshop:</b> a hands-on creative workshop designed for MA students in creative writing, journalism, scriptwriting, media studies, and marketing from within the ERUA network and beyond. Guided by 2–3 experienced tutors, participating students observe selected conference panels and work collaboratively on scripts, storyboards, or short media concepts that translate the scholarly debates on Chernobyl's political, social, and ecological legacy into accessible narrative and visual forms.</p> <p><i>Funded by ERUA</i></p>



### Conference participants in alphabetical order:

**Angela Liberatore** Angela Liberatore is Visiting Fellow on Science Diplomacy at the European University Institute. Previously she served as Head of the Scientific Management Department at the European Research Council Executive Agency, overseeing the implementation of evaluation, project follow up and feedback to policy. As part of her academic background, she is a scholar of nuclear risks analysis, policy and governance who earned her PhD at the European University Institute with a dissertation on response and learning processes following the Chernobyl disaster. Her research focuses on comparative analyses of national (France, Germany, and Italy), European and international policy responses, involvement of experts in decision making, media coverage and social participation; these are covered in her book *The Management of Uncertainty: Learning from Chernobyl* (Routledge). She has also conducted research on the management of global environmental risks (climate change, ozone layer depletion, and acidification) as well as science/policy interface and the links between security and democracy.

**Atanas Krastanov** graduated in Theoretical Physics (Solid State Physics) from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.” After graduation, he worked at the Institute of Microelectronics on the development of integrated CMOS circuits. From 1987 to 1990, he worked at the Committee for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy, where he headed an operational notification and protection center for nuclear emergencies. Since 2017, he has been working at the “Emergency Assistance and Prevention Directorate” of the Sofia Municipality, focusing on operational planning for disaster protection and risk reduction from natural and industrial hazards. He has also been a screenwriter of an educational film on protection against nuclear and radiological accidents. He is the author of a series of scientific and popular science books, including “The Path of Nuclear Fuel,” “Metaphysics of Time,” “Beyond Quantum Consciousness,” and “Death Can Wait,” among others. He is the screenwriter of “Chronicles of the Inconvenient Truth.”

**Dalma Boldog** is a Senior Lecturer of Mass Communication at the Budapest University of Economics and Business. She earned her PhD in Communication Science from Corvinus University of Budapest in 2022, following a Master of Arts in Communication and Media Science (2013) and a Bachelor of Arts in General Humanities (2011), both from King Sigismund College in Budapest. Her research focuses on the social history of media, journalism in state-socialist Hungary, and crisis communication, with particular expertise in the Hungarian media representation of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. She is a member of the editorial board of the Hungarian media studies quarterly *Médiakutató* (since 2017) and has published extensively on topics including Kádár-era information policy, populist communication in Hungarian elections, and comparative media systems. Her latest book, *Chernobyl and the Hungarian Media: Traces of a Nuclear Disaster* (L'Harmattan, 2025), synthesizes her research on the disaster's media coverage. Boldog has co-authored forthcoming works on journalism ethics in Eastern Europe and the history of journalism, with publications appearing in the *Central European Journal of Communication*, *Business and Diplomacy Review*, and various Hungarian academic journals.

**Dimitar Vatsov**, PhD, is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Doctoral School of New Bulgarian University, Sofia. He is a Chair of the Board of Human and Social Studies Foundation – Sofia (HSSF). He has been Editor-in-Chief of *Critique & Humanism* from 2000 to 2022. Since 2025 he is a member of the National Commission for Academic Ethics, Ministry of Education, Bulgaria. Dimitar Vatsov has published six monographs in Bulgarian and numerous papers in Bulgarian, English, Italian, Russian, French, Polish and Spanish. His research interests are in the fields of political philosophy, post-analytic philosophy of language and discourse analysis. In recent years, Vatsov has also devoted significant



research to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster's aftermath in Bulgaria, examining how state policies and (miss)management shaped society responses.

**Dimiter Sht. Dimov** holds an MA in Social and Cultural Anthropology and a PhD in Semiotics and Intellectual History from the Department of Theory and History of Culture at Sofia University. His research lies at the intersection of epistemology, semiotics, and intellectual history, with particular attention to the philosophy of C. S. Peirce and to the methodological foundations of oral history and memory studies in Eastern Europe. His scholarship has appeared in journals including *East European Politics and Societies* and *Critique & Humanism*, as well as other periodicals. He has edited several volumes on the cultural and historical legacies of the socialist period, including *This Is My Past*, Vol. IV (Sofia: Ciela, 2021), a collection of testimonies reflecting on lived experiences under socialism. His most recent research is on Industrial pollution in communist ruled Bulgaria.

**Dina Iordanova** is Emeritus Professor of Global Cinema at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. A native of Bulgaria, she has been affiliated with Universities in North America (UT Austin, U Chicago, U Ottawa), Europe, and Asia (Beijing Film Academy, University of Hong Kong). She has published widely on matters of Balkan cinema, Eastern European cinema, documentary, transnational cinema, Asian film, film industry and international film festivals. In recent years she has been working on a project related to the cinema of the non-Russian republics of the USSR and has published texts related to the cinemas of Ukraine and Central Asia. She is a member of the European Film Academy, fellow of the RSA, BAFTSS, NECS and others.

**Emrullah Ecer** is a PhD candidate in Psychology at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Wrocław, Poland. He holds a Master's degree in Neuropsychology from Ural Federal University (Ekaterinburg, Russia), where he graduated as the best student in his department, and a BA in Psychology from SWPS University (Warsaw), also graduating as the top student of 2019. His research focuses on attachment theory, emotion regulation, borderline personality traits, working memory, and materialism, with publications in peer-reviewed journals including *Acta Psychologica*, *British Journal of Psychology*, *Self and Identity*, and *European Journal of Marketing*. He has research experience at the University of Agder (Norway) and Ural Federal University (Russia), and actively contributes to the academic community as a reviewer for multiple journals (*European Psychologist*, *Journal of Health Psychology*, *PLOS ONE*) and as a research supervisor for EFPSA's international student programs. Ecer has received numerous awards including the EFPSA Research Supervisor Award (2024, 2025), a NAWA Internship Program grant, a DAAD Scholarship, and a Preludium BIS-3 Grant from the National Science Centre (Poland). He is proficient in statistical software (SPSS, Mplus, JASP, Jamovi) and maintains active membership in professional organizations including the American Psychological Association and the European Health Psychology Association.

**Hristo Gyochev**: Associate Professor at the Philosophy and Sociology Department of the New Bulgarian University.

**Hristo Todorov**: Professor at the Philosophy and Sociology Department and member of the Board of Trustees of the New Bulgarian University.

**Jim F. Malone** is the Robert Boyle Professor (Emeritus) of Medical Physics at Trinity College Dublin. He previously served as the Dean of the School of Medicine at Trinity College and St James's Hospital in Dublin. His academic credentials include a PhD, an MA, and he is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (FIPEM) as well as a Fellow of the Faculty of Radiology (FFR). His work primarily focuses on medical physics, particularly in the areas of radiation therapy and diagnostic



imaging In addition to his academic roles, he acts as a consultant to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). His recent publications demonstrate continued scholarly activity in medical physics and radiation protection: 2024: "Radiation protection, governance and ethics over 125 years" – examining the evolution of X-ray safety and ethical frameworks; 2024: "Evaluating the feasibility of Compton imaging towards improved spatial resolution and reduced patient dose in nuclear medicine" – published in the *European Journal of Medical Physics*, and 2023: A scholarly review critically surveying the historical development of medical radiotherapy physics. Prof. Malone's research spans both technical medical physics applications and the historical/ethical dimensions of the field, reflecting his interdisciplinary interests in radiation protection, nuclear medicine imaging techniques, and the professional history of medical physics.

**José A. Tapia** is a Professor of Politics at Drexel University in Philadelphia, where he has been on faculty since 2014. His interdisciplinary scholarship bridges health sciences, economics, and political science, with research focusing on population health and political economy. Before moving to the United States, where he got a master's degree in public health, and a PhD in economics, Tapia practiced as a primary-care physician in Spain. His career as researcher and lecturer started at the University of Michigan, where he taught for 11 years. At Drexel, he teaches courses on political economy, social development, and comparative politics. His research examining the intersections of population health with economic changes, environmental factors, and political institutions has appeared in several books and journals such as *PNAS*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Demography*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, and *Social Science & Medicine*. His unique background combining medicine with public health, social science, and economics informs his research on how political institutions shape health outcomes and how environmental factors and economic changes affect population health.

**Kaloyan Nikolov** is a film director and cinematographer with extensive experience in advertising, feature films, and documentaries. He began his professional career as an editor, camera operator, and visual effects specialist, later developing as a director. His creative work includes directing commercials, historical documentaries, and cultural travel films with a distinctive cinematic style. Kaloyan has received several international awards, including the Silver Dolphin at the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards, as well as awards from ART&TUR (Portugal) and Silafest (Serbia). Notable works include *"In the Heart of the City: Veliko Tarnovo," "Villa Armira – A Revived Legend," "The Labyrinth of Sofia,"* and *"Chronicles of the Inconvenient Truth."* He brings a strong visual and technical vision to every project and continues to work across genres, blending local culture with global storytelling perspectives.

**Lucrezia Cinella** is a PhD student in Global Studies at the University of Macerata (Italy), where she is pursuing research on the politics of health and climate change through a One Health and intersectional perspective (2024–2027). She earned both her M.A. in Communication and Digital Cultures (2024) and B.A. in Communication Sciences (2021) from the same institution, graduating cum laude (110/110) in each program. Her research interests span public communication, health and environmental risk communication, nudge theory, sustainability, and gendered innovations. She serves as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Political Science, Communication and International Relations at the University of Macerata (2024–2026) and is a member of the ERUA network's Blue Commission (Sustainability and Climate Change Commission) and the ERUA Research Cluster in Gendered Innovations. Cinella has published peer-reviewed work in *Salute e Società* (2025) on nudges and public communication for health and environmental risk mitigation, and has presented at conferences including SISCC 2025 and SOCIN 2025 on topics ranging from climate crisis and sustainability to intersectional challenges in parenthood and caregiving.



**Metodi Metodiev**: Assistant Professor at the History Department of the New Bulgarian University.

**Momchil Metodiev** is a historian who serves as Head of the History Department at New Bulgarian University (NBU) in Sofia and Director of the Institute for Studies of the Recent Past. He earned his degree in General Medieval History from Sofia University and holds a D.Sc. (Doctor of Sciences) with habilitation. His research focuses on modern Bulgarian history, particularly the communist period (1944-1989), with extensive work utilizing archives of the State Security (DS). His major publications include the monograph *Between Faith and Compromise: The Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the Communist State (1944-1989)* (2010), which examines the complex interactions between religious institutions and the communist regime. He has also co-authored works on Bulgarian contemporary history. His scholarship combines archival research with analysis of political, religious, and social dimensions of Bulgaria's 20th-century history, making him a leading voice in the field of Bulgarian modern history.

**Moris Fadel** holds a PhD in Theory and History of Literature (2002) from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," with a dissertation on "History and Interpretation in Paul de Man's Views." He is an Associated Professor and currently heading the Literary Studies Department of the New Bulgarian University. He also earned Master's degrees in Philosophy (2000) and Bulgarian Philology (1996), both from Sofia University, along with Russian language studies completed in 1991. Assoc. Prof. Fadel's main research interests span literary theory and the history of Bulgarian, Russian, Western European, and American literatures, with additional interests in philosophy and sociology. Areas of expertise include literary theory and philosophy of language. Teaching interests cover the theory and practice of text construction, literary theory, the aforementioned literary histories, and print media. His scholarly publications include two monographs: "The Animal as Literary Provocation: Emilijan Stanev's 'Animalistics'" (New Bulgarian University Publishing House, 2010) and "Paul de Man: Experiments with the Impossible" (Publishing Center "Boyan Penev" at the Institute of Literature – BAS, 2002)

**Petia Alexandrova** is a Professor in the Film and Television Department at New Bulgarian University and has a PhD from the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her work spans film studies, media theory, and contemporary visual culture, with a particular focus on the dynamics of short-form cinema and the transformations of audiovisual communication. She is the author of several influential monographs, including *Short-form Films: Advantages and Challenges. Models and Practices of Bulgarian Short Features* (2019), *Transitional Stories for Culture and Communication* (2015), *Lost in Seeing. Barriers in front of Audio-visual Media* (2012), and *Pains of the Title. From a Word to a Cinema Image* (2007). Beyond her books, she has contributed extensively to Bulgarian cultural journalism, publishing numerous articles on modern arts, cinema, theatre, and literature in different periodicals and media outlets.

**Philine Bickhardt** is a research associate and doctoral candidate at the Slavisches Seminar (Slavic Studies Department) of the University of Zurich, where she focuses on contemporary Slavic literature, gender studies, and the representation of the Holocaust in fiction. She earned her Master's degree in Slavic Languages with a minor in Social Sciences from Humboldt University to Berlin (2016–2023), including study semesters in St. Petersburg. Her scholarly work examines the intersections of literary canon formation, feminist critique, and national identity in Slavic literatures. One of her latest publications is the 2023 paper "The literary representability of the Shoah in the novel 'Gec i majer' from David Albahari" (examining language between documentation and imagination), a contribution to the edited volume *Women Writers and the Construction of National Identities*.



**Serhii Plokyh** is a professor of Ukrainian history at Harvard University, where between 2013 and 2025 he also served as the director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Plokyh is renowned for his extensive work on the history of Ukraine, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War, with a particular focus on nuclear history and the geopolitical transformations of Eastern Europe. His most celebrated work, *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine* (2015), provides a comprehensive narrative of the region, while *Chernobyl: History of a Tragedy* (2018) offers a detailed account of the 1986 nuclear disaster and its global impact. He has also authored *The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union* (2014), which examines the collapse of the USSR, and *Nuclear Folly: A History of the Cuban Missile Crisis* (2021). He is a recipient of numerous awards, including the *Lionel Gelber Prize* (2015) for *The Last Empire* and the *Baillie Gifford Prize* (2018) for his book on Chernobyl.

**Sergii Mirnyi** is a Chernobyl liquidator and Ukrainian intellectual – a multidisciplinary researcher and award-winning writer. In the first months after the Chernobyl nuclear reactor’s explosion Sergii Mirnyi was a commander of radiation reconnaissance platoon in the core of the affected zone; for his actions he was cited for courage and heroism. Now he is a research fellow at the National Museum “Chernobyl” (Kyiv) and director of the Chernobyl University. He was, in particular, Visegrad Scholar at the Open Society Archives (based on the archival collection and research papers of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; CEU, Budapest), and academic director of CHORNOBYL TOUR. His background includes humanities (incl. course of Prof. Hayden White at the Central European University), environmental sciences and policy (MSc, CEU/Manchester University) and chemistry (MSc, Kharkiv State /now Karazin National/ University). His scholarly works include a monograph “Chernobyl liquidators’ health as a psycho-social trauma”, holistic review “Chernobyl: Accident mitigated, disaster perpetuated”, generalizing paper “Chernobyl as info-trauma”, and study “A radicalizing event: How the Chernobyl Disaster catalyzed collapse of a totalitarian state of the USSR in 1986-1991” (Visegrad Fellowship; OSA 2024). Mirnyi wrote award-winning novella and screenplay “Worse than radiation”, documentary and popular science novel “Live forces”, and fiction novel and screenplay “Chernobyl comedy”.

**Stamen Kanev** is a doctor of ethnology. His dissertation, titled “Sociocultural Dimensions of Disaster (The Case of Asparuhovo),” was defended in 2024. He currently works as an assistant professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with the Ethnographic Museum – BAS. His research interests are in the field of anthropology of disasters, urban studies, museology, and traditional culture. He is currently the head of the project “Sociocultural Consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster in Bulgaria: Historical Context and Contemporary Aspects”, funded by the Scientific Research Fund for the period 2025–2028. He is the author of scholarly articles and studies in which he analyzes various topics and issues related to overcoming the aftermath of floods, earthquakes, and epidemics from a historical and ethnological perspective, the development of the urban environment, the current state of Sofia’s cultural heritage, the history of museum artifacts at the National Ethnographic Museum – BAS, and others..

**Stoyko Petkov** is an Associate Professor of the Department of Mass Communications at New Bulgarian University, where he teaches and conducts research in the fields of media and communication, audiovisual production, and electronic and digital media. He has been part of the university’s academic staff since 2001 and has held the position of Associate Professor since 2018. Since 2017, he has also served as Director of the Programme Council, contributing to curriculum development, academic coordination, and quality assurance processes. He holds a PhD in Mass Communications awarded by the Supreme Attestation Commission (VAK), Bulgaria, in the field of Film Studies, Film Art and Television. His research interests include media and communication theory, media management,

audiovisual production, advertising, strategic communication, digital intermediaries, artificial intelligence and media, and the transformation of contemporary media environments. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyko Petkov teaches a range of courses in media and communication studies, including electronic media, digital content, cross-media communications, and strategic communication planning. He is the author of the books *The Creative Triangle (Producer, Screenwriter, Director)* and *The Audiovision: Production, Distribution, Exhibition*, as well as numerous scholarly articles on contemporary media and communication issues.

**Tomasz Lewandowski** is a Doctor of Philosophy serving on the Faculty of Law at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poznan, Poland, where he graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University. His scholarly work focuses on international humanitarian law, law of occupation, human rights, and emerging challenges in legal theory. He has authored or co-authored numerous scholarly works, including the 2018 monograph *Robots and International Humanitarian Law: Contemporary Challenges*, which examines the implications of autonomous weapons systems under international law, and the detailed study *Law of Occupation, Jus Post Bellum and Responsibility to Protect: Separate or Complementary Tools for Restoring Human Rights Order after Mass Atrocities*. He has also contributed to the 2021 volume *Social Transformations in Contemporary Society*. His research bridges traditional international law with contemporary issues such as technology's impact on warfare and post-conflict justice mechanisms.

**Tymur Lavrenchuk** serves at the Scientific Department at the Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine (HDA). He holds dual Master's degrees in both Philology and History. Tymur's scholarly work includes membership in the joint Ukrainian-Polish working group responsible for publishing the document series "Poland and Ukraine in the 20th Century." Additionally, he serves as a researcher in the collaborative working group between the HDA and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, which is preparing a publication dedicated to the events of the Prague Spring of 1968. Mr. Lavrenchuk also participates in the project titled "Undoing the Language of Soviet Repression: Indigenous Peoples of Crimea in the KGB Files (1944–91)."

**Tsvetomira Antonova**: Teacher at International School Uwekind Sofia, Bulgaria and PhD Candidate in the Department of History, New Bulgarian University.

**Vesselin Motodiev**: President of the Board of Trustees of the New Bulgarian University and Honorary Professor at the History Department.