Maria N. Todorova Appointed CAS Professor of History

The Russian, East European and Eurasian Center is pleased to announce that Maria Todorova, Professor of History and REEEC Faculty Associate, has recently been appointed as a permanent faculty member at the Center for Advanced Study. CAS Professors are selected from the faculty on the basis of their outstanding scholarship. These appointments are among the highest forms of campus recognition. With the Associates and Fellows, they form the core of the Center for Advanced Study Community by delivering annual lectures and serving on the Research Appointments Committee, which selects CAS Associates and Fellows.

An internationally recognized scholar with an extensive publication list, Todorova’s most recent works include the personal essay “My Yugoslavia” in After Yugoslavia: The Cultural Spaces of a Vanished Land ed. by Radmila Gorup (Stanford, 2013) and “War and Memory: Trotsky’s War Correspondence from the Balkan Wars” in Perceptions – Journal of International Affairs, Special Issue – From the Balkan Wars to Balkan Peace, Spring 2013. Her Remembering Communism: Similar Trajectories, Different Memories is forthcoming with CEU Press. This will be the second edited collection to come out of the international research project she has coordinated with Stefan Troebst in 2006-2009 with generous funds from the Volkswagen Stiftung. Tentatively called A Dictionary of Socialism/Communism, a smaller volume will also appear with CEU press; it will consist of dictionary entries specific to the communist period in an endeavor to provide a differentiated form of Begriffsgeschichte of the terminology that originated in the communist era in distinct places and at discrete time periods.

Most well-known for her Imagining the Balkans (Oxford, 1997), Todorova’s seminal monograph has most recently inspired the UNESCO travelling exhibit Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the Long 19th Century, for which she also serves as a historical adviser. Inaugurated at the beginning of April 2013 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the exhibit reveals through ten themes how the development of modern nation in Southeastern Europe is inseparably linked to and interwoven with the story of the region. An outcome of the collaboration among 12 national museums in Southeastern Europe and elsewhere, the exhibit is in Serbia at the moment traveling soon to Romania and other countries in the region.

On sabbatical this academic year, Professor Todorova will be working on her current research project “Life in the Times of Utopia: The Lost World of Early Socialists at Europe’s Margins.” Set within the comparative framework of Europe and Eurasia, her study focuses on the legacy of early socialism in Bulgaria, the country with the earliest and strongest socialist movement in the Balkans. Her work will capture the formation of a revolutionary moment and explain socialism’s unique appeal in a young nation-state without a proletariat, offering a sociological examination the generation of revolutionaries and thus moving away from ideology and intellectual history towards social and cultural analysis.