

Tenth Annual Doctoral Conference

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Abstracts



С ФИНАНСОВАТА ПОДКРЕПА НА ЕВРОПЕЙСКАТА КОМИСИЯ, ЦЕНТРАЛЕН СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКИ ФОНД НБУ И МАГИСТЪРСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ (НБУ)

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Vanina Ninova

The Geopolitical Dimension of European Union Enlargement: Progress in the Integration of the Western Balkans

Abstract: The current paper, entitled 'The Geopolitical Dimension of European Union Enlargement: Progress in the Integration of the Western Balkans', analyses the transformation of the EU's enlargement policy in the context of the new geopolitical reality following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. As a result, the EU began to adopt an increasingly geopolitical approach toward the Western Balkans, emphasizing security, the stabilization of neighboring countries, and protection against external influence. The report aims to examine how the geopolitical logic influences the EU's enlargement policy toward the Western Balkans and what progress has been made in the region's integration amid threats from external factors and strategic competition. The analysis focuses on the state of the Western Balkans integration by the end of 2025 within the framework of the EU's geopolitical approach. Methodologically, the study is based on a qualitative analysis of official EU strategic documents, as well as contemporary academic and political analyses, which allows for an assessment of the progress achieved and an outline of the main challenges facing the enlargement process in the Western Balkans.

Vladimir Komarnickiy

Criteria for assessing the admissibility of interference with the right to freedom of speech in the countries of the Council of Europe for 2026

Abstract: The presented problem concerns the criteria applied by Council of Europe countries, primarily based on the practice of the ECHR, to determine the admissibility and necessity of interference with the right to freedom of expression. The object of the study is the practice of the ECHR, criminal, civil, and administrative liability legislation in Council of Europe countries, as well as law enforcement. The relevance of the study is determined by the fundamental nature of the right to freedom of expression, as well as the constant debates in science and society about its limits. The novelty of the study is determined by the constantly changing practice of the ECHR, the legislation and law enforcement of individual states, and the need for constant updating of research data in this area. The study utilizes the comparative legal method, the formal legal method, the historical method, methods of analysis, synthesis, and the functional method. The study demonstrates the criteria applied by the ECHR, legislators, and national courts to determine when interference with freedom of expression is justified and when it is not. These criteria consist of: 1) the restriction being enshrined in law; 2) the composition of the statement; 3) the context of the statement, including the place and time of the statement. 4) The manner of expressing thoughts. 5) The identity of the author of the statement, including his social status, attitude to the subject of the statement, the presence of a criminal record. 6) The type of liability applied (civil, administrative, criminal, immigration, constitutional). 7) The degree of sanction. 8) The



significance of the statement for public discourse, science, art. 9) The method of dissemination of the statement.

Ivan Sukhorukov

The relationship between the concept of jurisdiction under Article 1 of the ECHR and the 1970 Hague Evidence Convention

Abstract: The paper examines the interaction between the concept of jurisdiction under Article 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the positive obligations of States to secure Convention rights, and the mechanisms for cross-border taking of evidence established by the 1970 Hague Evidence Convention. It explores whether the initiation and conduct of cross-border evidentiary measures amount to an exercise of jurisdiction by the requesting State, and whether such measures generate shared or parallel responsibilities between the requesting and requested States.

The analysis begins by situating cross-border evidence-taking within the framework of jurisdiction as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights, particularly through the notions of effective control, authority, and State involvement in procedures affecting individual rights. The paper argues that although evidence located abroad formally falls within the territorial jurisdiction of the requested State, its relevance to judicial proceedings in the requesting State creates a functional and procedural jurisdictional link to both. This dual connection triggers the positive obligations of each State under Article 6 ECHR.

Building on this, the paper contends that Article 6 imposes a duty of cooperation between States when evidence necessary for fair proceedings lies outside the forum State's territory. A refusal to provide assistance, unjustified delays, or inadequate execution of a request may therefore constitute a violation of the right to a fair trial attributable to one or both States. The substantive assessment of such obligations must be measured against the procedural guarantees inherent in Article 6, including equality of arms, the right to present evidence, and the effectiveness of judicial protection.

Ultimately, the paper proposes a human-rights-oriented understanding of cross-border evidence cooperation, framing the Hague Evidence Convention not merely as an instrument of comity but as a mechanism integral to States' shared responsibility to secure access to justice"

Atif Yaseen

Green Growth in the European Union: Does Renewable Energy and Military Expenditure Play a Significant Role?

Abstract: This research paper aims to examine the short-run and long-run effects of renewable energy and military expenditure on green growth.

Research Gap: Based on the literature review, only a few scholars have examined the effect of renewable energy and military expenditure on green growth, while some have examined the relationship of these variables with carbon emissions and ecological footprints. However, this research paper fills the gap by analyzing the effect of renewable energy and military



expenditure on green growth, including additional variables, in the European Union. This research contributes by examining the joint effects of these variables on green growth and adds to the existing literature.

Research Methodology: This research paper employs the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) econometric approach to examine the short-run and long-run effects of renewable energy and military expenditure on green growth, including control variables, covering the period from 1990 to 2025 in the European Union. The study uses the ADF unit root test and the ARDL bounds test (essential requirements of the ARDL model), along with various diagnostic tests, to ensure the validity of the results.

Research Outcomes: The research paper's results show that economic growth and renewable energy have a positive relationship with green growth in both the short run and the long run. While military expenditure and urban population show mixed results, in the short run they have a negative impact, whereas in the long run they have a positive impact.

Research Implications: The European Union contributes significantly to global GDP and has a substantial global impact. This research article's findings are helpful for policymakers in developing effective policies to promote a greener European Union. However, the findings also provide a roadmap for other regions facing similar challenges.

Key Words: Green Growth, Renewable Energy, Military Expenses, Urbanization, Economic Growth

Liutauras Baikštys

Looking for a proper classification of the digital euro under the property law

The presentation purports to answer the question of what the digital euro would be under property law. The digital euro has to function as some proprietary object: a 'thing' (res), a 'claim' (jus), or a specific (sui generis) category. The consequences differ – the proprietary protection, including the right to reclaim the thing (res) from unlawful possession by another person (vindicatio), vs the right to demand compensation for an unsettled claim (jus).

The specificity of any item of the digital euro as a digital value object is not self-evident, nor does it feature a 'physical possession' and a 'physical transfer of possession'. Thus, the digital euro does not comprise regular features of the thing (res) under the property law. But, although defined as a claim against the ECB, the digital euro can hardly be considered a claim under property law, since it could be redeemed for itself, albeit possibly in another form (cash). The presentation suggests qualifying the digital euro as a specific (sui generis) object under the property law.

Its qualification is distinguished from that of commercial bank money (CoBM) and crypto assets (EMTs and ARTs), retaining parallels in the issue of control vs possession.

Andrius Piepolis

Merger control as EU competition law tool for tackling algorithmic collusion: opportunities and shortcomings



Abstract: In the time of a drastic evolution of algorithmic and artificial intelligence tools businesses have new opportunities to monitor and automatically adapt to competitor prices. While highly accurate and speedy price setting decisions usually facilitate effective competition as competitors have more opportunities to undercut their rivals, such a practice could also have detrimental effects in highly concentrated (oligopolistic) markets.

Based on empirical studies some of the researchers believe that the prevalence of such algorithmic decision-making in oligopolistic markets could only exacerbate the so-called oligopoly problem, that is, a situation when without any explicit or implicit agreement competitors become interdependent and tacitly collude by charging supracompetitive prices. Before the prevalence of algorithmic pricing, EU competition law stance was that oligopolistic tacit collusion cannot be sanctioned by rules governing prohibited agreements. Such a decision was based mainly on two arguments. First, that the law cannot prohibit firms to make rational decisions (make price adjustments based on competitors' activities) as long as these decisions are made independently (without any explicit or implicit agreement between the competitors). Secondly, conditions allowing businesses to tacitly collude were difficult to achieve, therefore, such situations were rare.

Taking into account that algorithmic and artificial intelligence tools facilitate the emergence of tacit collusion scenarios even in markets which were not prone to collusion before, there is an emerging need to reevaluate the current EU competition law tools in tackling such situations.

One of such tools could be EU merger control rules which cover tacit collusion risks as a potential merger outcome. Bearing this in mind, the proposed paper would analyze the opportunities and shortcomings of such merger control rules in solving the issues of algorithmic tacit collusion."

Stratis Sentas

Young Farmers and CAP Support: Evidence from the North Aegean

Abstract: The generational renewal of farmers is a central objective of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The Young Farmers Scheme aims to support young people entering agriculture and strengthen the sustainability of rural areas. This paper examines how young farmers in the North Aegean Region of Greece perceive the attractiveness and impact of this policy instrument.

The study is based on survey data collected from beneficiaries of the programme. The analysis presents descriptive findings on farmers' socio-economic characteristics, their perceptions of the attractiveness of the Young Farmers Scheme, the main environmental and economic challenges faced by their farms, and the perceived effects of subsidies on farm management and development. The results indicate that most respondents view the programme positively and express a strong willingness to remain in farming after its completion, while climate change, drought, and economic pressures are reported as key challenges.

In addition, the paper explores how perceptions of subsidy eligibility may vary across different farmer characteristics, such as agricultural income, dependence on farming, and the



presence of off-farm employment. The findings suggest that these socio-economic factors influence how farmers perceive the inclusiveness and fairness of subsidy allocation.

By linking farmers' perceptions with broader policy objectives, the study contributes to discussions on the effectiveness of CAP measures in supporting rural communities and promoting resilient agricultural systems in Mediterranean island regions."

Julia Carvalho Bandeira

The Landless Workers' Movement (MST) and memorialization methods in the Carajás region

Abstract: This paper examines the political practice and memorialization methods employed by the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) in the Carajás region of Brazil, from the 1996 Eldorado dos Carajás massacre to the present day (2026). The massacre, in which 19 rural workers were killed by police during a peaceful protest for agrarian reform, represents a pivotal moment of extreme state violence. Situated within a context of neo-colonial extractivism and structural violence, the MST embodies a political and economic alternative to capitalism, advancing practices and imaginaries that contest dominant logics of production and exploitation. We argue that the Movement's memory work - encompassing rituals, monuments, and narrative practices, actively confronts this ongoing violence. Furthermore, we contend that struggles for land - whether articulated through Indigenous territorial claims or agrarian reform, transcend local geographies and cultural boundaries, as they respond to a universal injustice that is highly characteristic of the global South and post-colonial countries: the handling of land monopolies by local and international elites, often backed by States and transnational corporations.

Aleksandra Belozerova

Constructing "Femininity" and "Masculinity" in Russian Liberal Discourse: The Case of "Vremja Berezovskogo"

Abstract: This paper examines how gendered constructions of "femininity" and "masculinity" shaped power dynamics within the post-Soviet liberal movement, using Pyotr Aven's (2018) interview series *Vremja Berezovskogo* as a lens for analyzing liberal discourse in Russia. Based on in-depth conversations with key liberal actors and contemporaries of Boris Berezovsky, the series transcends biographical reconstruction and instead positions Berezovsky as a symbolic figure of the 1990s — a period marked by profound political, economic, and cultural transformation.

Within these narratives, Berezovsky's political identity remains contested. Interviewees offer divergent interpretations of his role and ideological orientation, reflecting broader ambiguities within Russian liberalism. Nonetheless, his public interventions — particularly his open letter criticizing Vladimir Putin (2000) and his "Manifesto of Russian Liberalism" (2002) — underscore his significance as a controversial liberal voice. Through the prism of his figure, both interviewer and interviewees articulate competing visions of liberal values, practices, and responsibilities. A distinctive feature of the source material is Aven's positionality as both



interviewer and participant, which facilitates a high degree of trust and informality. This insider perspective provides rare access to elite self-presentation and enables a nuanced exploration of discursive strategies.

Methodologically, the paper employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative discourse analysis. It investigates the visibility of men and women in post-Soviet liberal discourse, as well as on the construction and representation of femininity and masculinity. Drawing on an intersectional framework, the study highlights a central paradox of the liberal elite: their role in enabling Vladimir Putin's rise in the 1990s, they later emerged as part of the opposition, remaining deeply entangled with the regime at the level of values. Particular attention is given to the persistence of gendered stereotypes within these narratives

Christian Vassilev

What does it mean to "lose yourself" in music?

Abstract: Most people have had the experience of being so absorbed in music that they lost track of time, of their surroundings, or even of themselves. Performers and listeners describe experiences in which the distance between self and music collapses entirely, in which playing or listening no longer feels like doing something to or with the music, but like being it. This talk takes that experience seriously as a philosophical question rather than a metaphor or an extreme psychological curiosity.

The presentation begins by mapping what people actually mean when they speak of losing themselves in music — drawing on the reflections of performers and listeners who have articulated the experience with unusual precision. It then asks why this phenomenon has proven so difficult to account for theoretically, exploring recent studies in cognitive science and qualitative research on flow and absorption. It also suggests how musical experience may be seen as similar or different to (other) altered states of consciousness. The paper then makes the case that something in musical experience exceeds existing frameworks for understanding it. The reason is that all of them begin from a pre-defined, non-musical self that is then engaged with music — whereas the experience itself suggests that self and music may be entirely co-dependent.

The closing section draws out what is philosophically at stake. If losing oneself in music is not a deficit or modification of normal experience but a distinct mode of it, then music turns out to be an unusually transparent site for questions about selfhood and subjectivity.

Emrullah Ecer

Attachment Insecurities and Subjective and Objective Working Memory Deficits: The Mediating Role of Experiential Avoidance and Body–Mind Integration

Abstract: Individuals with attachment insecurities frequently report subjective working memory difficulties, yet empirical evidence regarding objective working memory performance remains limited. This preregistered study examines whether attachment insecurities are associated with both subjective and objective working memory deficits



through heightened experiential avoidance and body–mind integration. Subjective working memory deficits were measured using the ADEXI self-report scale, while objective performance was assessed via a 2-back task. Interoceptive skills were operationalized through body listening, body trust, and self-regulation, with all analyses controlling for self-compassion-related autobiographical memory recall.

In Study 1 (N = 195, Turkish participants), higher attachment anxiety was positively linked to subjective working memory deficits via experiential avoidance, whereas Study 2 (N = 312, Polish participants) did not show this effect for objective working memory. Notably, attachment anxiety was associated with objective working memory deficits, while attachment avoidance was negatively related. Importantly, for individuals with higher levels of attachment anxiety lower levels of self-regulation and body trust protected from working memory difficulties.

These findings suggest that attachment-related regulatory processes are linked to body–mind integration mechanisms relevant to working memory. Experiential avoidance and interoceptive self-regulation may serve as pathways through which early relational experiences shape cognitive functioning. This research contributes to an emerging perspective that cognitive vulnerabilities are partially rooted in attachment-related emotion regulation and embodied self-regulatory processes, offering implications for interventions targeting both emotional and cognitive aspects of adult functioning."

Georgios Stergiou

Rethinking Digital Innovation: The 4D-DT Framework for Inclusive and Human-Centric Transformation

Abstract: The paper presents the development of the 4 Dimensions Digital Transition (4D-DT) framework, an interdisciplinary methodology designed to address the persistent fragmentation of digital transformation initiatives within Industry 4.0 and the emerging human-centric paradigm of Industry 5.0. While digital change is frequently driven by technological implementation, empirical evidence suggests that failure often stems from misalignment between technological systems, organizational culture, strategy, and human agency.

The 4D-DT framework integrates four interdependent dimensions.

1. Organizational Structures,
2. Technological Infrastructure,
3. Strategy & Change Management, and
4. People Empowerment,

into a structured readiness and maturity model. Drawing on socio-technical systems theory, technology acceptance research, and innovation management literature, the study proposes a set of theoretically grounded readiness indicators supported by AI-enabled diagnostic mechanisms.

Preliminary validation through applied case analyses demonstrates how multidimensional assessment can reveal hidden capability gaps and support more inclusive and participatory transformation pathways. By reframing digital transition as a socio-technical and cultural



process rather than a purely technical upgrade, the paper contributes to ongoing interdisciplinary debates on ethical AI governance, resilience, and sustainable innovation. The study invites critical discussion on how adaptive frameworks can foster inclusive digital futures across diverse organizational and societal contexts.

Eva Nikolova

From expert systems to generative models: the evolution of AI-based analytical systems in communication

Abstract: This paper traces the evolution of AI-based analytical systems in communication, from expert systems and decision support systems to contemporary generative models and hybrid architectures. It aims to clarify how technological paradigms have evolved, which analytical functions are currently implemented, and what the limitations of their application are in communication research and evaluation. The first part provides a historical overview of the development of these systems and outlines a conceptual framework. The second part applies this framework in a comparative analysis of selected contemporary tools using predefined criteria. The paper concludes by outlining and substantiating key trends in the field's future development.

Borislav Georgiev

Intergenerational approaches and academic leadership in an AI-bound environment for the development of future professional competencies

Abstract: The evolving perception of universities—from traditional institutions for knowledge transmission to dynamic environments fostering collaboration between generations in the context of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)—introduces new challenges for higher education leadership and management. This study focuses on identifying effective leadership models for managing “intergenerational capital,” through which initial technological resistance can be reconsidered and transformed into a source of strategic development and enhanced student engagement.

The concept of “AI-academic flexibility” is presented as a framework that combines ethical principles with adaptive educational approaches, highlighting the need to redesign curricula and assessment methods so that artificial intelligence functions as a supportive tool rather than a substitute for human reasoning. The analysis is grounded in a critical examination of leading management theories and established university practices.

The paper further emphasizes the role of university culture as a unifying factor that enables the development of independent and critically thinking communities of faculty and students. Particular importance is placed on the integration of transparent AI usage processes and collaborative learning models between educators and students, adapted to emerging



technologies, as key prerequisites for improving competitiveness and ensuring successful professional realization in the future labor market.

Yana Kotseva

Classical and modern models for building communication strategies: application in corporate and product marketing and similarities and adaptations in feature films

Abstract: "The present study examines models for building communication strategies in corporate and product marketing, as well as their similarities and adaptations in the context of feature film as part of the cultural industries. In theoretical terms, both classical and contemporary models of communication strategy development are analyzed, including the Lasswell's model, AIDA, DAGMAR, SOSTAC, OIIC, GWTB, and SOAP, which structure the process of strategic planning and communication.

The main research question explores to what extent these models retain their structural logic across different contexts and how they are adapted to the specific characteristics of the film product. Within the dissertation, a comparative analysis is conducted between the communication strategy of a brand and that of a feature film.

The analytical part includes a study of "Delikates Zhitnitsa" as an example of a long-term communication strategy and the Bulgarian film "Gundi: Legend of Love" as an example of communication within the cultural industries. The analysis shows that, although strategic models preserve their structural logic, their application in cinema requires adaptation related to the emotional and cultural nature of the content.

The study demonstrates that communication models function not only as tools for strategy development, but also as analytical frameworks for its examination.

Hristyana Stoimenova

Cross-cultural factors and algorithmic matching in the management of processes within digital platforms

Abstract: "This paper examines the role of cross-cultural factors and algorithmic matching in the management of processes within digital platforms, with a focus on their applications in the creative industries. In the context of a globalized digital environment, platforms function as intermediaries between culturally diverse participants, which creates new challenges for management, communication, and content creation.

The theoretical framework encompasses cross-cultural models (Hofstede, Hall, Trompenaars), as well as algorithmic approaches such as matching theory, two-sided markets, and recommender systems. The analysis explores the interaction between cultural characteristics and algorithmic mechanisms, emphasizing their impact on user behavior and the structuring of access to content within platforms.

Through a comparative analysis of international platforms such as Netflix, Spotify, and TikTok, as well as Bulgarian counterparts like Storytel Bulgaria, National Film Center, and DigitalArtCulture, different management models are identified, based on levels of control, personalization, and algorithmic dynamics.



The main conclusion is that effective management of digital platforms requires an integrated approach that combines a new type of organizational culture, grounded in the concept of multiple intelligences as an element of contemporary leadership style, along with the capacity for continuous adaptation to organizational change through innovation in organizational design.

This process implies an evolution toward algorithmic design, in which technological mechanisms and managerial practices operate in synergy. Such a hybrid model is particularly relevant in the context of the creative industries, characterized by high cultural dynamics and functioning within a multidigital environment."

Kristiyan Nachev

Advantages and risks of implementing crowdsourcing strategies in electric vehicle communication

Abstract: The study examines the significance of crowdsourcing as a modern communication tool regarding electric vehicles, which are increasingly serving as symbols of ecological progress and technological achievement. It highlights the transition from a conventional one-way information flow to a dynamic structure where the user group actively participates in generating content and advertising messages. The research is based on a review and interpretation of academic sources, and a comparative assessment of specific case studies from automotive industry leaders – BMW, Volkswagen, and Tesla – that implement crowdsourcing tactics in their interactions. The conclusions indicate that crowdsourcing strengthens the credibility and reliability of product brands through components shaped by customers. This increases the motivation for participation, establishes communities, and supports innovation by merging concepts and evaluations. Simultaneously, the study identifies risk factors such as the inability to manage information, the publication of false information, and some legislative and moral challenges. The effectiveness of crowdsourcing is influenced by a company's ability to maintain a balance between transparency and control. Successful approaches involve information accountability, intensive monitoring, and the active application of user feedback. In the absence of corporate planning, there is a risk of brand image loss and contradictions between customer perceptions and corporate initiatives.

Tsvetomir Krumov

Graphic design in the age of artificial intelligence: perception, effectiveness and limits

Abstract: This paper presents the perception and effectiveness of graphic design in audiovisual products created by humans and artificial intelligence. In the context of rapidly evolving generative technologies, the question arises to what extent AI can create visual content that is not only aesthetically sound but also communicatively effective.

The study provides a comparative analysis of two types of content - created by professional designers and generated using AI tools. The analysis is based on criteria such as emotional impact, comprehensibility, and audience engagement. The methodology includes a study with participants who evaluate various audiovisual examples.



The results aim to highlight the key differences in perception and to identify the strengths and limitations of AI in the context of graphic design. The paper contributes to the understanding of the designer's role in the era of artificial intelligence and lays the groundwork for future research in the field."

Victoria Ilieva

Visual representation of women's clothing in Roman plastic art from Northern Bulgaria

Abstract: The subject of the present study is women's clothing in Roman plastic art from the territory of Northern Bulgaria. The research includes various categories of sculptural monuments depicting female figures, through which the characteristics of women's costume in a Roman provincial context are examined.

As a result of the analysis, two main plastic groups have been distinguished – representations of goddesses and representations of private individuals. Depending on the different types of monuments, variations can be observed in the treatment of textile, drapery, and the plastic rendering of clothing. In this way, emphasis is placed on the boundary between real everyday attire and idealized ceremonial dress in Roman visual culture.

Iliya Stoimenov

Mythological creatures of Bulgarian-Iranian origin from the treasure in Nad Saint Miklós

Abstract: The paper focuses on the images of mythological creatures on jug № 2 from the treasure of Nagyszentmiklós. It aims to show the close connections between ancient Bulgarian mythology and the mythologies of the Iranian world.

Ettore Michelazzi

Flute ensemble: History and evolution over the centuries, an analysis of different historical periods with regard to management

Abstract: This article will analyse and illustrate the differences and evolution of musical management, with particular reference to the transverse flute.

It will examine developments across historical periods, beginning with sacred music governed by the Christian church (with some reference to secular music), moving on to the era of patronage—both that of the noble courts and the Italian Renaissance—and concluding with the monarchies and the rich bourgeoisie.

It will examine the role of the impresario and the entertainment industry as it is known today, including copyright, without overlooking public funding at local, regional, national and European levels.

The final question we will attempt to answer is as follows: the evolution of the role of the professional flutist in the near future, in light of current and contemporary historical events, which see so-called 'classical music' in partial decline, within a constantly evolving market



shaped by world-wide historical and political events."

Zlatka Dimitrova

Japanese graphics from the "International Print Biennial in Varna" in the collection of the National Gallery

Abstract: The paper examines a group of works by Japanese artists that were acquired by the National Gallery through the International Print Biennial in Varna, regarded as a key forum for international artistic exchange in Bulgaria since 1981. The analysis places emphasis on the role of the Biennial in introducing and consolidating contemporary Japanese printmaking in Bulgaria, as well as on the place of these acquisitions within the broader history of the Gallery's collection of works by Japanese artists. Japanese printmakers participated actively from the very first edition of the forum, and the collection retains works by prominent Japanese artists. The paper considers these works not only as museum acquisitions, but also as testimonies to the cultural ties between Bulgaria and Japan during the final decades of the twentieth century. Special attention is devoted to the Biennial as a mechanism of artistic visibility, institutional mediation, and the lasting presence of Japanese artists in the Bulgarian museum environment. The topic forms part of a broader study of the provenance of works by Japanese artists from the second half of the twentieth century in museum collections in Bulgaria, and of the role of international forums in enriching those collections.

Vassilena Radeva

The true story theater seen through my own directing and teaching practice

Abstract: The practical exploration of approaches to constructing theatrical reality from factual material has long been at the focus of my work as a theatre director. Reworking social, political, and personal cases through theatre is part of the mission of the Panic Button Theatre company, of which I am a co-founder. The presentation provides examples from three projects in professional theatre and three additional projects with students from NBU. It focuses on the theatrical methodology used in the process of their creation and the way fact and fiction relate within the stage language of these performances.

Konstantin Radoev

The semantic roles in predicate-argument structure in Swedish, Danish and Bulgarian

Abstract: The presentation provides a concise overview of a dissertation on the topic "Deep and Surface Manifestations of Semantic Relations in Predicate Argument Structure. A Contrastive Study between Swedish, Danish, and Bulgarian", defended on the 18th of September, 2025, at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". A generative and a functionalistic linguistic approach are combined in the comparison of the predicate-argument structures of the three languages, with attention paid to the decomposition of the verb phrase, on the one hand, and on the other – on the featural characteristics of the semantic roles, which are



associated with strictly defined positions in deep structure. Transitivity is treated as a gradual concept dependent on the featural encoding of the arguments, and the hierarchies of Agents and Themes are compared from the perspective of unaccusativity, unergativity, and causative mechanisms in the three languages. A comparative structural typology of one-, two-, and three-place static and dynamic verbs of location, possession, and (possession of) knowledge is proposed, through which the arguments with the semantic roles of Recipient, Theme, and Location are also hierarchised.

Martina Dimova

Acoustic analysis of the impaired articulation of the spoken sound /r/. Methodology and epidemiology of the study

Abstract: A specific articulation disorder is a speech disorder affecting articulation. Rhotacism is a subtype of this disorder characterized by impaired articulation of the alveolar trill /r/. The articulatory characteristics of these errors are well known in Bulgarian speech-language pathology, but there is insufficient reliable data on the acoustic aspects. The report will present the structure and methodology of an acoustic study of impaired articulation of the target sound, as well as epidemiological information about the participants. The study is part of the author's dissertation. The participants (age, gender, kindergarten or school), the stimuli used (assessment protocol, linguistic analysis of the samples – segment type, complexity, positional distribution), procedure, experimental design, and initial data processing will be discussed. The study employs a quasi-experimental between-groups design. The study participants are preschool- and elementary-aged children and adults with or without rhotacism from Sofia. The "The articulation assessment protocol of preschool-aged children" (Todorova, 2013) was adapted, featuring segments of varying complexity and different positional distributions. Recordings were made using SPC Gear SM950 microphone. The data were segmented using Audacity and analyzed using Praat. The report presents a methodology for acoustic analysis. The experiment was designed to enable the analysis of acoustic parameters related to the impaired articulation of the /r/ sound.

Kremena Kuneva

Trust as a communication model in medical practice: linguistic mechanisms and perception in human and algorithmic responses

Abstract: This study examines trust in medical communication as an outcome of how responses are formulated. In high emotional-stakes situations, language does more than convey information. It organizes uncertainty and signals whether there is a person on the other side who can be relied on. With the widespread access to health information, the physician's role increasingly shifts toward the ability to create clarity and a sense of direction through written communication. The analysis compares written responses by physicians and artificial intelligence systems across identical clinical scenarios involving conflict, risk, and uncertain prognosis. The texts were evaluated by independent respondents in terms of



clarity, empathy, and trust, in order to trace how different linguistic choices shape perception. The findings suggest that trust rarely depends on the amount of information provided. What matters more is whether the response acknowledges tension and makes it more manageable through structure and tone. Empathy emerges as the leading factor, while clarity strengthens its effect. AI responses tend to be more consistent and easier to follow, whereas physicians with communication training show a stronger link between language and perceived authenticity. The study outlines recurring communication patterns that can inform medical training and be adapted to the Bulgarian clinical context.

Lubomir Donchev

The meme as a mechanism of cultural replication: basic theoretical models

Abstract: I will present the main theoretical developments on the topic of the meme. Starting from the parallel between the gene and the meme introduced by Richard Dawkins, I will move through the main characteristics of the meme and its possible transformations. The meme constitutes a subject of scholarly interest in at least three disciplines: image theory, philosophy of ordinary language, and political communication. In this presentation, I will outline the possible fields of reflection in these three directions, while also attempting to draw attention to the “Internet meme” as a field for interdisciplinary research.

Maria Ilieva

European policies and regulations in the field of digital communications

Abstract: European policies in the field of digital communications represent a key aspect of the strategic efforts aimed at promoting digital transformation in Europe. These policies seek to create a secure, sustainable, and innovative digital environment by facilitating the development and implementation of modern technologies while enhancing competitiveness within the European market.

This study examines the development of communication models prior to the emergence of digital media, as well as the impact of traditional offline media on society and public communication. It also analyzes the existing legislative framework through a comparison between national and European legislation in the field of digital communications. The research methodology applied in the study is also defined and outlined.

Special attention is given to the major European policies and initiatives, including the European Democracy Action Plan, as well as to the key EU regulatory acts such as the European Media Freedom Act, the Digital Services Act, the Digital Markets Act, the Artificial Intelligence Act, the Data Act, and the Data Governance Act. The study further explores the role of artificial intelligence in the sphere of digital communications and its impact on the media environment, access to information, and consumer protection. In conclusion, European digital communication policies continue to evolve in order to adapt to the challenges and opportunities arising from digitalization. Their primary objective is to



maintain a balance between technological innovation, freedom of information, and the protection of citizens' rights and interests.

Martin Petrouff

Current issues related to Art. 242 of the Criminal Code and border control after accession to the Schengen Area

Abstract: The accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Schengen Area in 2025 led to significant changes in the control and legal mechanisms related to state border protection and the counteraction of customs crimes. This article examines the impact of the removal of internal border controls on the structure and dynamics of such crimes, as well as the adaptation of the national legal framework to European standards.

The study analyzes the main challenges faced by law enforcement authorities and prosecution bodies in the investigation of smuggling, excise goods evasion, and cross-border trafficking. It also includes a comparative analysis of practices adopted in other European Union member states with external borders. The aim is to assess the effectiveness of the current legal provisions under Chapter Eleven of the Criminal Code and to propose improved approaches for the prevention and criminal-law protection of customs security within the context of free movement in the Schengen Area.

In conclusion, Bulgaria's integration into the Schengen framework requires not only strengthened institutional coordination and legal harmonization, but also the implementation of effective mechanisms for combating customs-related criminal activities in an increasingly dynamic cross-border environment.

Ivan Bregov

Examination of the budgetary autonomy of the judiciary in the US as a guiding constitutional principle

Abstract: The article examines the budgetary autonomy of the judiciary as an essential component of judicial independence in the United States and traces its constitutional development from the colonial era to the present. It reviews the debates of the Constitutional Convention, the state ratifying conventions, and the arguments advanced in The Federalist Papers, which shaped the understanding of financial safeguards as a means of protecting the judiciary from political pressure. The analysis also considers later theoretical contributions that emphasize the relationship between independence, accountability, and adequate resourcing. The article concludes by drawing a parallel with the Bulgarian constitutional framework, highlighting the need for a balanced model that combines institutional autonomy with effective mechanisms of accountability.

Anton Stavriev

Pernik: industry as a political construct



Abstract: The report examines some aspects of the development of Pernik until the mid-20th century. The development of the coal mining industry had a key influence on the development of the settlement. At the end of the 19th century, Pernik was a village with less than 1,000 inhabitants. The opening of the first mine marked the beginning of changes that determined the fate of Pernik for decades to come. On the one hand, coal mining generated the development of mechanical engineering and metallurgy, thus transforming Pernik into a significant industrial center. On the other hand, a settlement was created around coal mining and industry, which bears the classic features of industrial cities in Western Europe.

The economic, social and cultural specificities of the city are also the basis of a specific political development. For a long period of time, the policy of Pernik overlapped with the policy of the enterprise ""Mini Pernik"". The Mine planned and implemented the economic and social policy of the settlement. The Mine functioned as a para-institutional center of power, which exercised control over administrative, social and economic processes at the local level

Anna Chavova

Exposed concrete and modern housing construction

Abstract: The report examines examples of 21st-century residential architecture featuring elements or structures made of exposed concrete. It analyzes the development of this type of architecture over recent decades and draws conclusions regarding its future evolution and potential trends.

Alexandra Petrova

Development of film tourism destinations: offering basic and additional services

Abstract: The report will examine leading world tourist destinations developing and offering film tourism. This specialized type of tourism is the main object of research in the doctoral dissertation on the topic "Researching the impact of film tourism on the experience industry". Film tourism provides opportunities for diversification of the tourist product and increasing the competitiveness of destinations. Basic and additional tourist services that form the product of film tourism will be presented. Experiences of tourists and ways to study them, including methods for assessing satisfaction in the context of film tourism, also fall within the scope of the current and upcoming research within the framework of the PhD program.