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EINLADUNG ZUM VORTRAG

# SUBVERTING BALKANISM

## MENTAL MAPS AND SCHOLARLY AGENCY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL REGIONS

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In recent years, western discourse about the Balkans, or “Balkanism,” has risen in prominence. Characteristically, this strand of research sidelines the academic input in the production of western representations and Balkan self-understanding. Looking at the Balkans from the vantage point of “Balkanism” has therefore contributed to its further marginalization as an object of research and the evisceration of its agency. In my recently published book I suggest a reversal of perspective by looking at the Balkans primarily inside-out, i.e. from within the Balkans towards its “self” and the outside world, where the west is important but not the sole referent. The book unravels attempts at regional identity-building and construction of regional discourses across various generations and academic subcultures, with the aim of reconstructing the conceptualizations of the Balkans that have emerged from academically embedded discursive practices and political usages. It thus seeks to reinstate the subjectivity of “the Balkans” and the responsibility of the Balkan intellectual elites for the concept and the images it conveys.

**Diana Mishkova** has specialized in modern and contemporary history of Southeastern Europe and has been, since 2000, the director of the Center for Advanced Study Sofia. Her research focuses on comparative Balkan history, history of nationalism, intellectual history, and historiography. Her recent publications include also *European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*, co-edited with Balázs Trencsényi (London: Berghahn Books, 2017), *Entangled Histories of the Balkans. Vol. 2: Transfer of Political Ideologies and Institutions*, and *Vol. 4: Concepts, Approaches, and (Self-) Representations*, co-edited with Roumen Daskalov et al. (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014, 2017).

Im Anschluss wird zu einem Glas Wein gebeten.

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