

# Southeast Europe Unit

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## The Unit

The Southeast Europe Unit consists of two directors and a wider circle of Balkan specialists at Keele University. Its members are staff and postgraduates at Keele who research various aspects of the remaking of Southeast Europe and the adjacent regions of Eurasia in the wake of the collapse of communism in the east, and in the context of an ongoing integration with the west. It is housed in the central Chancellor's Building at the heart of Keele University within reach of all the University's facilities.



## The Origins

The Southeast Europe Unit was officially launched in November 1996 by the Vice Chancellor of Keele University in the presence of leading British researchers of Southeast Europe, the Bulgarian Ambassador, representatives of the Turkish Embassy, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Higher Education Funding Council and Staffordshire Business Link.



## Directors

### [Kyryl Drezov](#)

Kyryl Drezov studied International Relations at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia and conducted research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences before becoming Visiting Fellow of St Antony's College in Oxford in 1990-91. He joined the Politics Department of Keele University in 1996. He has published on the Russian factor in Bulgarian and Balkan politics, and on problems of transition, modernisation and nationalism in Bulgaria and Macedonia. He has also covered these issues and countries for Oxford Analytica and BBC World Service since 1991.

He edited (with Bülent Gökay and Michael Waller) and contributed to *Kosovo: The Politics of Delusion*, published by Frank Cass in 2001.

His expertise is frequently solicited by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, by other government institutions and by international consultancies, banking and business concerns with an interest in Bulgaria, Macedonia and the wider Balkans.

### [Bülent Gökay](#)

Bülent Gökay joined the International Relations Department of Keele University in 1996. Previously he had been a Research Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge (1994-1996), a tutor at Birkbeck College-London (1993-1994), a visiting lecturer at the University of North London (Spring 1995 and 1996) and supervisor and part-time lecturer at the University of Cambridge (1994-96).

He edited seven volumes of *British Documents of Foreign Affairs* (Turkey, 1923-39). His books with a Balkan dimension include *A Clash of Empires: Turkey between Russian Bolshevism and British Imperialism* by IB Tauris in 1997; *The Politics of Caspian Oil* (ed.) by Palgrave in 2000; *Eastern Europe Since 1970* by Longman in 2001; *Soviet Eastern Policy and Turkey, 1920-1991* by Routledge in 2006; *Politics of Oil – A Survey*, by Routledge in 2006; *Unholy Alliance: Muslims and Communists in Post-Transition States* (with Ben Fowkes) by Routledge in 2011.

Bülent Gökay is the chair of the Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* and the founder and the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Global Faultlines*.



## Balkan Specialists at Keele

In the **International Relations Programme** Barry Ryan's research on police reform in the Balkans examines how international security is increasingly defined and addressed on policing rather than traditional military terms. This is the focus of his monograph *Statebuilding and Police Reform: The Freedom of Security*, published by Routledge in 2011. He has worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Development Programme and with Irish Aid on security reforms in the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus region.

In the same programme, the late Christopher Brewin had left a wealth of contributions on Cyprus and Turkey, notably his books *The European Union and Cyprus* (2000) and *Turkey and Europe after the Nice Summit* (2002).

In the **Management Programme** Mihaela Kelemen completed a research programme on 'The Management of Manufacturing in Four European Countries' (with Paul Forrester and John Hassard), one of them being Romania. She ran workshops on 'Cross-cultural Management in Eastern Europe', and on 'Competences for Eastern European Managers'. She authored (with M. Kostera) *Critical Eastern European Management: Current Issues and Research*, published by Palgrave in 2002, and numerous articles and chapters that deal with management and transition in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.



## Graduate Programmes

Members of the Unit offer specialist modules on:

- Regime Change in the Balkans
- Nations and Nationalism in the Balkans and Eurasia
- Policing International Order
- European Politics and Culture
- European Union Enlargement
- Russia and Europe
- Post-Soviet Space in International Politics

The Unit particularly welcomes thesis students, at both PhD and MPhil levels. They can register in any Keele University programme, such as Politics or International Relations, and benefit from a strong and growing postgraduate community.



## Workshops, Seminars, In-house Publications

The Unit regularly welcomes visiting speakers, some of whom have come from Australia, Bulgaria, Moldova and Turkey. More than 40 visiting speakers had presented at the Unit since 1996.

Examples of the Unit's international conference activities are the hosting at Keele of a series of seminars and open debates on the 1999 war over Kosovo, a workshop on *The Fragmentation of Yugoslavia: Ethnicity and the State*, a conference on *The Image of the Turk in Europe*, a workshop on the 2014 events in Ukraine, and a workshop on the centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Both Kyril Drezov and Bülent Gökay have been active in co-organising conferences outside Keele, in Cambridge, Oxford, Wilton Park, at SSEES and LSE in London and other venues.

The Unit publishes *The Keele Southeast Europe Newsletter*. It also runs a series of occasional papers with the logo *Southeast Europe Series*, such as *Reflections on Taksim - Gezi Park Protests in Turkey* (eds. Bülent Gökay and Iliia Xypolia) published in 2013.



## **Making Expertise Available**

The Unit offers an expertise on Balkan affairs that is in many respects unique in the UK, in particular as concerns Bulgaria, Macedonia, Turkey's relations with Europe, and Russia's links with Balkan countries. Holders of conferences on health, business, local government, and security issues have invited its members to provide expert background information. The Unit is willing to provide individual consultation for business and other interests in the region.