After almost two decades of independence, the Republic of Macedonia has achieved a number of successes. In the turbulent period from 1991-1992, it managed to leave the former Yugoslav federation peacefully. Although dealing with a serious ethnic divide, it has managed to avoid sustained interethnic violence. And while starting from a relatively low socio-economic base, it has made enough progress in its political and economic reform efforts to be named an EU candidate country. Yet Macedonia continues to face a number of problems: resolving the “name issue” hampering its Euro-Atlantic integration efforts, improving interethnic relations, and dealing with the institutional weakness and corruption common to all the countries of the region. Macedonia thus presents an important case in which to examine questions such as the relative importance of ethnic identities versus economic interests; the power and potential of preventive diplomacy; and the role of the EU as a catalyst for domestic reform in the Balkans.
• **Ljubomir Frckoski** (Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje): “Identity Conflict/Consolidation and Democracy in Macedonia.”

• **Roger Petersen** (MIT): “Ethnic Status Hierarchy in Macedonia: A Comparative Perspective”

• **Shinasi Rama** (NYU): “Macedonia: Integration Processes and the Albanian Problem”

11:15am – 12:45 pm  **Panel II: Two Decades of Dispute: Perspectives on the “Name Issue”**

• Chair: **Gligor Tashkovich**

• **Robert Hislope** (Union College, NY): “Neighborhood Bully: Greek Obstructionism and Macedonian Self-Identity.”

• **Denko Maleski** (Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje): “Law, Politics and History in International Relations: Macedonia and Greece”

• **Aristote Tziampiris** (University of Pireaus): “A Unique Euro-Atlantic Accession Process?”

2:15 – 3:45 pm  **Panel III: Toward EU Integration: The Macedonian Record**

• Chair: **Gordon N. Bardos** (Harriman Institute)

• **Keith Brown** (Brown University): “The Politics of Persistence and the Persistence of Politics in Macedonia.”

• **Lidija Georgieva** (Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje): “Macedonia and NATO beyond Bucharest”

• **Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova** (Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje): “Macedonia and the Euro-Atlantic Path: Between Scylla and Charybdis”