The articles in this book are an edited version of the papers presented during the First International Conference on Media and Memory “COVERING THE COMMUNIST PAST: MEDIA TRANSFORMATION AND MEMORY IN ALBANIA”, on 9-10 November 2015, in Tirana.

The conference was focused on the following themes:

- The role of the media in the past
- Journalistic culture in the past and the present
- The collective memory of other periods through the lens of communist experience
- Media journalistic practices in producing and reproducing collective memory
- The role of the media producers in the construction of collective memory
- The role of media technology in archiving collective memory
- Social media and collective memory
- Media of remembrance: Literature

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PREFACE

The book that you have in your hands is a product of the First International Conference on Media and Memory “Covering the Communist Past – Media Transformation and Memory in Albania”, held in Tirana on 9-10 November 2015. Both the conference and the edited volume were conceived by the editors with the conviction that journalists and the media play a key role in the collective memory of a country through the way they report on different historical figures and events. Similarly to other communist countries, Albanian media and journalists during the dictatorship were part of the regime’s propaganda apparatus. As one of the contributing authors, Peter Gross (Chapter 1) puts it, their transformation in the early 1990s to independent and democratic media has not been easy. Twenty five years have passed since the fall of the Stalinist dictatorship in Albania, and it is time we examine the role Albanian media and journalists have played on the societal reflection on the country’s past during this period.

*Media Transformation and Collective Memory in Albania* bring together media and cultural communication scholars who discuss their views on the attitudes of the media towards Albania’s past with a special focus on the previous totalitarian regime. In order to put the Albanian experience in a comparative context, international scholars with an academic interest on memory studies, in general, and on Central and Eastern European countries that have undergone similar transitional processes, in particular, are also included in this publication.

With *Media Transformation and Collective Memory in Albania* we hope to make a theoretical and empirical contribution in the under-researched field of Media and Collective Memory in Albania and elsewhere. In order to give a more complete picture, the book is
divided in 5 different Parts, each covering different but equally important aspects of the matter. However, we do not claim we are covering every key area in the study of Media and Memory. During the selection process we had to be very strict in accepting only those papers that examined specific aspects of collective memory in Albania and in other countries with similar transitional history. We hope that *Media Transformation and Collective Memory in Albania* will be a useful compendium resource for anyone who is interested in the media and collective memory in post-communist countries.

The book starts with a chapter that offers an overall reflection on the transformation of the media in Eastern Europe after the fall of communism, followed by an overview of the status of the Albanian journalist before 1990, which help us understand the challenges journalism has been undergoing during the transitional period in Albania. The other chapters include approaches to the transformation of language and images in media and literature; international perspectives; memory in the new media; as well as critical views on the process of the mediatization of memory.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all contributors for their excellent work. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work together. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for its support of IDMC activities, without which this publication and the conference that preceded it would not have been possible.

*The Editors*
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