

**Raymond Detrez** (Antwerp 1948) studied East European languages and history at the University of Ghent, Belgium (1967-1971) and specialized in Bulgarian language and 19<sup>th</sup> century Bulgarian history and literature at the University of Sofia, Bulgaria (1972). From 1974 to 1997, he produced radio programmes on political and cultural events in Eastern Europe for the Third Programme of the Belgian Radio and Television. He published articles and books dealing mainly with the history of the Balkans and translated prose and poetry from Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian, Russian, Slovenian and Serbian/Croatian. In 1986, he received his Ph. D. from the University of Ghent. In his Ph. D. thesis, he investigated nineteenth century Balkan nationalism on the basis of the life and work of the poet and activist Grigor Parlichev (Ohrid 1831-1893). In 1990 he was appointed as a part-time professor of Balkan History at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and in 1997, he became a full-time professor of East European history and cultural history at the University of Ghent. From 2000 to 2013, he was the director of the Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Ghent which he founded. His current research focuses on aspects of pre-national and national group identities in the Balkans in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.