

## **Academic Freedom. Does it still matter?**

Villa Decius, Krakow  
19-20 October 2017

*We dedicate this event to Prof. Felix Kaputu from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 10 years in exile and recently hosted by the Villa Decius Association, and to the Scholars at Risk Network members, and especially Polish universities who protect scholars and promote the freedom to think, question and share ideas.*

The foundation for academic freedom was laid by the medieval European universities. Protected by papal bulls and royal charters, the universities became legally self-governing institutions with the freedom to organize their work and establish standards for teachers and students. Yet, this institutional independence and freedom to teach, study, and pursue knowledge have not always been welcome, and over centuries both universities and academics have frequently been the subject of public pressure and criticism.

The modern concept of academic freedom has two meanings. First, based on a separation of powers, means the right of an institution to develop its own academic mission and priorities, to manage its own curriculum and academic affairs in an autonomic way. The second refers to the freedom of academics to teach also on controversial subjects without fear of reprisal.

Academic freedom should be allowed to flourish because our future relies on the progress of thought, science and technology, and deep knowledge of societal challenges is of the utmost importance for the development of policy measures and for the well-being of any country and community. If academic discourse is muzzled by limiting free expression and by persecuting scientists, our entire future is at stake.

'Vemos, ouvimos e lemos. Não podemos ignorar' [We see, we hear, and we read. We cannot ignore]' sang Sophia de Mello Breyner during the struggles for freedom in Portugal. Her words might become a motto for Scholars at Risk, an international network of academic institutions and individuals whose mission is to protect persecuted scholars and promote academic freedom.

## PROGRAMME

Thursday, October 19

Chair of the conference: Dominika Kasprowicz, Villa Decius Association

10:00 – 10:30

### OPENING REMARKS

Prof. Ryszard Tadeusiewicz, President of the Villa Decius Association  
Sinead O’Gorman, European Director of the Scholars at Risk Network  
Prof. Dorota Malec, Vice-Rector for the Jagiellonian University Development  
Prof. Janina Filek, Vice-Rector for Communication and Cooperation, Cracow University of Economics  
Prof. Anna Siwik, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, AGH University of Science and Technology

10:30 – 11:00

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Prof. Terence Karran (University of Lincoln)

11:00 – 12:30

### CHALLENGES TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM

*National and regional dimensions of current challenges to academic freedom and related values and their effects.*

Moderator: Łukasz Fyderek (Jagiellonian University)

Prof. Aleksa Bjeliš (University of Zagreb)

Prof. Michal Vašečka (Masaryk University)

Prof. Tadeusz Gadacz (Collegium Civitas / Faculty of Humanities, AGH University of Science and Technology)

12:30 – 13:00

Coffee break

13:00 – 14:30

### COURAGE TO THINK

*Testimonies and dialogues with refugee and at-risk scholars and students.*

Dialogue 1: Nour A. Munawar (Syria), University of Amsterdam

Interview by Beata Kowalska (Jagiellonian University)

Dialogue 2: Olga S. Hünler (Turkey), University of Bremen

Interview by Krzysztof Machaczka (University of Economics)

Dialogue 3: Monem A. Mahjoub (Libya), former World Center for Studies and Researches, currently ICORN scholar

Interview by Veronica Pagnani (The Krakow Post)

14:30 – 15:45

Buffet meal

16:00 – 18:00

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**14<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala of the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello  
granted in memory of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights (2002-2003)**

With participation of the Jury of the Prize:  
Chancellery of the President of Poland, HE Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Poland, HE Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Poland, UNHCR Representative to Poland, Deputy Director of the Department of the United Nations and Human Rights, MFA, Polish Commissioner for Human Rights, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, the United States Consul General, President of the ZNAK Foundation, President of ZUE S.A., President of Kraków Airport, President of Malopolska Regional Development Agency, Initiators of the Prize and President of the Villa Decius Association.

**Chair of the Gala:** Danuta Glondys, Villa Decius Association

*Simultaneous interpretation (English/Polish):  
Bartosz Krajka and Piotr Krasnowolski*

**Friday, October 20**

09:00 – 11:30

**TOWARDS A SCHOLARS AT RISK POLAND SECTION**

Representatives from higher education institutions in Poland will join this meeting to discuss forming a Scholars at Risk (SAR) Poland Section.

SAR Sections are groups of higher education institutions and associations that are nationally focused and organised specifically to coordinate participation in SAR activities. They are coordinated by a national steering committee or a secretariat in partnership with the SAR head office.

**Chair:** Danuta Glondys

**Introduction:**

Sinead O’Gorman, European Director of Scholars at Risk Network

Karen-Lise Knudsen, Chair of Scholars at Risk Norway Section

**Participants:**

Andrzej Bukowski, Jagiellonian University

Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska, Jagiellonian University

Olga S. Hünler, University of Bremen

Katarzyna Jurzak, Jagiellonian University

Dominika Kasprowicz, Director of Villa Decius Association

Beata Kowalska, Jagiellonian University

Marta Kudelska, Jagiellonian University

Marcin Lubaś, Jagiellonian University

Monem A. Mahjoub, former World Center for Studies and Researches, ICORN

Anna Małecka, Faculty of Humanities, AGH University of Science and Technology

Nour A. Munawar, University of Amsterdam

Marzena Piszczek, Cracow University of Economics

Monika Sady, Cracow University of Economics

Michal Vašečka, Masaryk University

Viera Žúborová, Bratislava Policy Institute

*(Experts’ debate, English only)*

14.00 -19.00

**STUDY VISITS**

*Conference concept by Danuta Glondys, Dominika Kasprowicz and Sinead O’Gorman*

**14th Awards Gala of the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello  
The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-2003)**

**Thursday, October 19  
16:00 – 18:00**

**Chair of the Ceremony:** Danuta Glondys, Villa Decius Association

**Welcome addresses:**

**Prof. Ryszard Tadeusiewicz**, Chairman of the Villa Decius Association  
**Marzena Paszkot**, Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Krakow for Family

**Opening:**

**JE Alfredo Leoni**, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Poland  
**Ulrik Tideström**, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden in Poland  
**Maria Pamuła**, Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Poland  
**Maciej Janczak**, Deputy Director of the Department of United Nations and Human Rights in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Communique from the session of the Jury of the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello:**

**Prof. Ryszard Tadeusiewicz**, Chairman of the Villa Decius Association

**Presentation of the Jury's verdict in a category "A Person":**

**Adam Bodnar**, Commissioner for Human Rights

Presentation of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello statuette and a diploma:

**Jan Baster**, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance  
**Radosław Włoszek**, President of the Board of Kraków Airport  
**Stanisław Kula**, Auguri S.A.

Address by the Laureate

**Presentation of the Jury's verdict in a category "Non-Governmental Organisation":**

**Henryk Woźniakowski**, Deputy President of ZNAK Foundation for Christian Culture

Presentation of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello statuette and a diploma:

**Wiesław Nowak**, President of the Board of ZUE SA  
**Pannella DeVolder**, Public Affairs Officer at the American Consulate General in Krakow  
**Urszula Podraza**, Małopolska Regional Development Agency SA

Address by the Laureate

Simultaneous interpretation (English/Polish):  
Bartosz Krajka and Piotr Krasnowolski