SCHOLARS AT RISK 2018 GLOBAL CONGRESS

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

SUMMARY REPORT
At this biennial gathering, participants discussed the rising threats to scholars and universities around the globe, strategies for supporting at-risk scholars and higher education communities, and ways of mobilizing SAR network members to better understand and defend academic freedom and related values. The Congress was a joint venture of Scholars at Risk, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation—whose Philipp Schwartz Initiative (PSI) has provided research fellowships for over 120 at-risk scholars at German institutions since 2015 and which hosts the secretariat of the SAR-Germany Section—as well as long-time SAR member Freie Universität Berlin.

The Congress featured keynote lectures from distinguished academics who called on the higher education community to warmly welcome at-risk scholars into their institutions, and to protect universities as spaces for critical thought and the open exchange of ideas.

Plenaries and parallel sessions highlighted challenges for scholars and students around the world, including in China, India, Egypt, Russia, Venezuela and the United States. Workshops and panels featured forward-looking strategies for responding to attacks on higher education communities and presented model programs for supporting at-risk scholars and students.

The event also included the Courage to Think Award Dinner, during which Scholars at Risk presented its 2018 Courage to Think Defender Award to Turkey’s Academics for Peace (Barış için Akademisyenler) for their “extraordinary efforts in building academic solidarity and in promoting the principles of academic freedom, freedom of inquiry, and the peaceful exchange of ideas.”

We, the organizers, thank all those who participated and supported the 2018 Global Congress for their expertise, their critical insights, and their generosity. We look forward to continuing our work together to protect scholars and promote academic freedom in the years ahead.

**PROF. DR. HANS-CHRISTIAN PAPE**
President, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

**PROF. DR. GÜNTER M. ZIEGLER**
President, Freie Universität Berlin

**ROBERT QUINN**
Executive Director, Scholars at Risk

“Let us learn from each other. Let us challenge each other: to ask tough questions, to listen, to speak truth, to understand, to do more, to do better. So that when our great-grandchildren look back on us from their time, they will do so not asking about what we didn’t do, but with pride and gratitude for what we do, now, together.”

Robert Quinn
Executive Director, Scholars at Risk, in his welcoming remarks at the Global Congress Opening Plenary
PRE-Congress Workshops

The pre-Congress workshops fostered in-depth discussions on threats to academic freedom, ways to promote core higher education values, and advice for scholars on resuming their academic careers. Nearly 200 participants had the opportunity to engage with the Congress’ theme and explore deeper engagement with SAR activities.

Protection

The SAR Scholar Workshop addressed key questions for scholars seeking longer-term academic opportunities outside of their home country. Nearly 80 scholars attended the workshop. Experts and alumni scholars shared advice on topics such as integration in a new academic environment, mental health and social well-being, identifying publishing opportunities, and tips for academic networking.

The workshop also offered scholars the opportunity to share their experiences. One participant noted, “I found it extremely interesting to learn more about the success stories of at-risk scholars. I am already in contact with many of them, which proves that there was a great need for this exchange.” In the post-workshop evaluation, participants said they would recommend it to friends or colleagues. Following the workshop, SAR staff and guest presenters held one-on-one consultations with 50 scholars who were seeking advice on their career planning, professional development, and general next steps.

Research & Learning

The SAR Promoting Higher Education Values Workshop brought together higher education staff, faculty, administrators, leaders of higher education associations, and other partners to discuss higher education values and their implementation in a wide range of settings. More than 30 participants from North America, Australia, Asia and the Middle East attended the workshop, which encouraged participants to discuss proactive strategies to examine values issues and to develop practices that can build respect and understanding between stakeholders.

Working in small groups and in plenary discussions, participants applied frameworks developed by SAR for exploring multi-layered values questions. Participants then discussed a range of responses to real-world incidents, including examples involving controversial speakers on campus and values-related challenges in international partnerships. In the post-workshop evaluation participants unanimously agreed that the workshop was informative and relevant.
The SAR Academic Freedom Advocacy Workshop explored SAR and partner-led advocacy initiatives including the Academic Freedom Monitoring Project (which produces SAR’s annual *Free to Think* report), Student Advocacy Seminars & Legal Clinics, Scholars-in-Prison campaigns, and UN and regional advocacy for academic freedom. Presentations included country experts from Lithuania, Venezuela, Ghana, Russia, Pakistan, and Egypt, among others.

Participants discussed threats facing scholars and students in their countries, including violent attacks, imprisonment, prosecution, and institutional restrictions, as well as strategies to document the global problem of attacks on higher education and to demand accountability of perpetrators in order to deter future attacks. Roughly 65 participants including academic staff, researchers, NGO partners, and students attended the workshop.

The Protecting Student Expression Workshop, jointly organized with the Norwegian Students’ and Academics’ International Assistance Fund (SAIH), explored current challenges facing organized student movements, the legal foundations to free expression claims by student movements, and capacity building for student organizations and their leaders.

Participants from 10 countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Europe, and North America discussed best practices for developing national, regional, and international advocacy. One student leader shared, “I was able to express what I feel freely. It felt good to be inspired by others and to have had the opportunity my other country fellows couldn’t.” In the post-workshop evaluation, all participants agreed that the workshop was interesting, useful, and worthwhile.

“There was a great experience attending the 2018 SAR Global Congress and I personally found the spirit of collectivity and resistance resonating throughout.”

**STUDENT PARTICIPANT**
The Global Congress offers a unique opportunity for members of the global Scholars at Risk Network—which includes over 530 members in 41 countries—to come together to share best practices, discuss new projects, and explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation across existing programs. These meetings, together with informal networking throughout the event, help to strengthen our joint activities to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

SAR Sections
These are groups of higher education institutions and associations that are nationally or regionally focused and organized specifically to coordinate participation in SAR activities. The following SAR sections held their regular section meetings at the 2018 Global Congress:
- SAR Canada
- SAR Finland
- SAR Germany Steering Group and SAR Germany General Assembly
- UAF-SAR Netherlands and Belgium Section
- SAR Norway
- SAR Sweden
- SAR Switzerland
- SAR-USA planning committee

SAR How to Host Workshops (Introductory & Advanced)
These workshops highlighted best practices in welcoming scholars to campus and considerations for scholar integration, adjustment, professional development and transition-related planning and support. The workshops provided an opportunity for SAR network members to learn from each other’s experiences supporting at-risk scholars.

SAR Advocacy Information Session
The session offered a forum for new and current partners in SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project, Legal Clinics, and Student Advocacy Seminars to discuss potential synergies across existing activities and explore new partnerships to expand SAR’s advocacy work.

SAR New Member Meeting
This meeting provided an opportunity for institutions that recently joined or are exploring membership in the SAR network to discuss hosting scholars, organizing events and workshops, and engaging in research and advocacy to promote academic freedom.

“...inspirational and helpful. I am able to bring back many ideas to my own university to share in our support for scholars at risk...”

2018 CONGRESS PARTICIPANT
SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting

The SAR IAC, composed of representatives from SAR’s country sections and partner networks, held its quarterly meeting in Berlin. The IAC’s purpose is to embed international perspective into SAR’s structure and governance, and to provide a forum and communication channel for SAR sections, partner networks, SAR staff and board. Participants discussed several items of common concern, including how SAR sections might play a more active role advocating on behalf of scholars in prison, how to increase cooperation between SAR sections and partner networks, and the importance of working together to increase outreach to scholars and institutions in countries not yet represented in SAR’s network.

POSTER SESSION

The Global Congress included scholars assisted by Scholars at Risk, the Philipp Schwartz Initiative and their partners presenting posters sessions about their research activities. Other posters highlighted academic freedom advocacy and related activities of SAR members and partners.

ACTIVITY EXPO

With more than 250 organizations in attendance at the Global Congress, the Activity Expo offered partners of the Scholars at Risk Network and the Philipp Schwartz Initiative the opportunity to meet and share information about their activities with members of the global SAR network.
The Global Congress keynote speakers each offered unique perspectives on the theme, The University and the Future of Democracy. As academics working in higher education, law, and civil society, they were united in calling on universities to protect against censorship and illiberalism by safeguarding academic freedom and open discourse on campus. They urged universities seeking to enhance scholarship and diverse thought to open their doors to scholars at risk.

Emphasizing the increasing threats to individual scholars and higher education around the world, the speakers stressed the importance of universities as critical pillars of democratic society, as well as the essential role of academic freedom and other core values in fulfilling the mission of the university as the place of bildung, a German word Professor Baer described as meaning, “a development of mind and soul towards civic virtues.”

**THE PRE-CONGRESS KEYNOTE** was delivered by Professor Homa Hoodfar, a Canadian-Iranian sociocultural anthropologist and professor emerita of anthropology at Concordia University in Montreal. At the time of the last SAR Global Congress in Montreal in June 2016, Professor Hoodfar was detained by Iranian authorities. She was subsequently held for 112 days in Evin Prison. Her speech, titled, Working Toward Academic Freedom: A Transnational Right in Our Diverse Socio-Political Settings, vividly described her time as a scholar in prison including how she used her toothbrush to "write" book chapters on the prison walls in between interrogations. Professor Hoodfar noted, “Academic freedom is...not only a right, but it is a responsibility given to academics to help society progress.” She concluded her speech by emphasizing, "When we create knowledge, it belongs to the whole world."

“Hosting scholars at risk is a litmus test for universities. You do only pass this test if you allow for, empower, and invest in different voices...Scholars at risk must enjoy more than a gracious gesture. For many reasons, they and their expertise must be truly welcome.”

“The key proposition is to counter the risk posed by attacks on democracy, and on universities and academic freedom. Then, the call is for a nuanced diplomacy of a university reaching out. Finally, the call is to, as one element of glocalisation, truly welcome and host scholars at risk, with more than a benevolent gesture. It is the university that is designed to be, and must strive to stay the space for a cosmopolitan ‘education’ via exchange among equals.”

“This commitment to safeguard education and academic freedom justifies university autonomy; the way a university deals with scholars at risk is a litmus test of its practice, and its ability to contribute to democracy at all.”

---

**PROF. DR. SUSANNE BAER, LL.M.**
Professor of Public Law and Gender Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin; Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany

**GET THE FULL TEXT ONLINE**
Read the complete text from the keynote speeches on the Scholars at Risk website: scholarsatrisk.org/event/berlin

---

**PROF. HOMA HOODFAR**
Professor Emerita of Anthropology, Concordia University, Montreal
KEYNOTE HIGHLIGHTS

What is Free and Open Inquiry?: Academic Freedom and Political Expression

“Academic freedom is a right, a power, within the university only to the extent that its exercise is institutionally supported and guaranteed...In fact, it is a compact among the academic researcher, the university, and the state, for the state must accept the academic freedom of institutions and agree to restrain itself from intervention into matters that only those appointed within the university are entitled to decide.”

“Today I will argue that these two distinct and interlocking freedoms [freedom of expression and freedom of opinion] are not only critical tasks of the university, but that the university loses its integrity when external attacks on those freedoms prove successful. We are here in part to know the harm in the present and the future, and to consider how best to organize against the destruction of freedoms which strike at the heart of the university itself.”

“Moreover academic freedom presumes and fosters contesting intellectual views, for only through open and engaged contest does thinking become more nuanced, more grounded, more persuasive, and even more closely allied with the pursuit of truth. Hence, when that vital contest of viewpoints is suppressed, this, in turn, suppresses the critical potential of thought that the university is obligated to keep alive.”

“Universities have obligations to many publics; not only to their local, regional, and national communities, but also to the broader global community, in part because research now depends on exchange, translation, and international publication. We need a global commitment to international norms of academic freedom, which means strengthening the powers of public responsibility.”

“Censorship as a form of power shows its weakness: it indirectly admits the deep fear that censoring authorities have of the power of speech, of critique, of open-ended inquiry.”

KEYNOTE HIGHLIGHTS

Scholars at Risk, Cultures in Crisis: On the Impact of Research and Culture on Social Stability and Sustainable Development

“Where scholars have to fear for their personal safety, where the fundamental principles of freedom of research are questioned, or where the code of ethical academic conduct is compromised, the welfare and future of a society as a whole are at stake.”

“Successful societies protect and promote their scholars in their quest for new knowledge. Those who do not pay attention to this age-old political truth will eventually have to pay a high price for their ignorance.”

“The international community must step up its efforts to urge political leaders all over the world to make an unconditional commitment to the freedom of research, to adhere to the principles of ethical academic conduct and to create an environment in which scholars may contribute to the advancement of humanity without having to fear for their lives or those of their loved ones. Without knowledge, there is no culture; without culture, there is no society. Therefore, protecting scholars at risk and creating sustainable networks of experts for culture on a global level is not only a humanitarian obligation, but an indispensable investment in the future of our planet.”
Plenary discussions at the Global Congress focused on strategies for supporting higher education communities in Hungary and Turkey as they face ongoing, targeted threats. Panelists stressed the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, and discussed the ways their organizations are pursuing policies to support higher education institutions, as well as individual scholars and students.

**Friends Forever? How to Assist/Continue Working With Scholars and Universities in Turkey**

**PANELISTS:** Prof. Dr. Kader Konuk, Academy in Exile, Laura Batalla, The European Parliament Turkey Forum, and Dr. Monika Steinel, European University Association (EUA);
**MODERATOR:** Robert Quinn, Scholars at Risk

With Turkey’s higher education sector experiencing unprecedented threats, individuals, institutions, associations and governments are seeking strategies to continue working with and supporting colleagues in and from Turkey without compromising core higher education values. In discussing EUA’s approach, Dr. Steinel acknowledged that they are continually evaluating how best to walk “the tightrope between necessary criticism and also cooperation,” and noted that finding avenues for cooperation allowed EUA members to reconnect with colleagues now in Europe. Adding a longer term perspective, Dr. Steinel quoted a colleague as saying, “Governments come and go but Turkish universities, academics and students will stay, and we would like to be able to work with them in the future.” Dr. Konuk pointed to solidarity academies as partners to engage with in Turkey, and Ms. Batalla emphasized the need to bring actors together to work towards solutions, adding that it is still possible to create change at the micro level.

**Central European University and the Case For Academic Freedom**

**Dr. Liviu Matei, Provost and Pro-Rector, Central European University, in conversation with Prof. Lisa Anderson, Columbia University, and a Scholars at Risk Board Member**

When the Hungarian government passed a law restricting the ability of foreign universities to operate in the country, it not only threatened CEU’s academic freedom and institutional autonomy, but also its very existence. “It’s a very new kind of intimidation against academics, against their families [in Hungary]” according to Dr. Matei, who noted that individual members of their community are also facing threats. He called for the codification of European law on institutional autonomy and academic freedom as one of the strategies the international community could pursue. As CEU continues to fight to maintain its work in Budapest, Dr. Matei shared, “one of the lessons we have learned is that solidarity matters;” adding that “this situation is relevant for what happens in Hungary, what happens in Europe, and probably more generally in the world of higher education globally.”

---

*Heidrun Tempel, Director for Research and Academic Relations Policy and Cultural Relations Policy, German Federal Foreign Office*
To highlight the extraordinary academic talent, social contributions, and courageous resilience of the academics our network serves, scholars supported by SAR, the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, and partners opened each plenary session with short presentations about their area of academic expertise.

"Here, my life gets back to me. I speak my mind. I work on what I love, on what I learned. I even explored my expertise in this area, I gave talks, I attended seminars on the Syria conflict...I feel, here, alive...The fellowship at the University of Cologne enabled me to be human again. To get back to life, to get back on track."

DR. ANAN ALSHEIKH HAIDAR is a research fellow in the International Peace and Security Law department at the University of Cologne. She discussed how her fellowship enabled her to continue her research on international criminal law and the Syrian conflict.

"The goal of this short speech is not only to talk about my work experiences but also to demonstrate what this scholarship can offer to an academic...[It can help] restart and recover an academic’s career."

DR. TAREK AHMAD is a scholar of classical archaeology from Syria hosted at Heidelberg University. He recently published a monograph on the Baitokaike shrine in Syria, and presented on his most recent articles, which have been published in Italian, Arabic, and English.

"What is going on in the Turkish case is not unique to Turkey. This imposition of the authoritarian mentality into our universities is not unique to Turkey. It’s not culturally specific, or country specific; it’s a global issue."

DR. ZAFER YILMAZ is a scholar of political science from Turkey currently hosted at the University of Potsdam. Dr. Yilmaz spoke about his work on the rise of authoritarianism, transformation of the rule of law, and citizenship in Turkey.

"One of the most pressing challenges is to uphold and promote the value of higher education including academic freedom."

PROF. AMAL EL-OBEDI is a scholar of political science from Libya currently hosted at the University of Bayreuth. She is currently undertaking a comparative analysis of political orders in Libya and Mali, and presented on the impact of the war in Libya on higher education.

"We are scholars who are at risk not because of where we live but because we are scholars. If the first victim of war is truth, then the first victims of war-prone dictatorial regimes are us—scholars—who by definition do not possess but pursue truth."

DR. NIL MUTLUER is a scholar of sociology from Turkey who currently holds a guest professorship at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Dr. Mutluer, whose research focuses on gender, ethnicity and nationalism, discussed the risks scholars face in pursuing their work. "W e are scholars who are at risk not because of where we live but because we are scholars. If the first victim of war is truth, then the first victims of war-prone dictatorial regimes are us—scholars—who by definition do not possess but pursue truth."
Parallel sessions at the Global Congress were organized along three tracks: scholars and researchers, host institution staff, and general interest. The scholar and researcher track focused on identifying resources and strategies to address common challenges faced by individuals working to resume their academic careers abroad, including legal status, identifying funding opportunities, and career opportunities outside academia.

The host institutions track engaged SAR network members in discussion about existing and new programs to support at-risk scholars and highlighted best practices to encourage coordination and cooperation within institutions, as well as across regions and countries. The general interest track featured country experts sharing the latest updates on threats to academic freedom around the globe, including Venezuela, Poland, Belarus, Russia, China, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria and the United States.

Other sessions in this track highlighted new projects and initiatives to help advance protection for higher education communities everywhere, these include development of a global academic freedom index, and workshops and trainings to promote higher education values, including the free online course, Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters.

### Track 1: Scholars

**Legal Issues Related to Being In Germany as a Threatened Scholar**

**Dr. Stephan Hocks**

**Understanding Research Careers In Germany—& Where to Look for Funding**

**Dr. Martina van de Sand**, Scholz CTC Consulting

**Looking for Careers Outside of Academia: University Advisory Services on Qualifications & Technology Transfer**

**Dr. Gergana Baeva & Bertram Welker**, Freie Universität Berlin; Dahlem Research School;

**Dr. Christine Reuter**, Freie Universität Berlin; Profund Innovation

**Placements & Fellowships for At-Risk & Refugee Academics & Students**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Barbara Sheldon**, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

**Laura Lohéac**, PAUSE program, Collège de France; **Sarah Willcox**, Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF);

**Stephen Wordsworth**, Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara)

**Mentorship & Peer-to-Peer Projects for At-Risk & Refugee Academics & Students**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Florian Kohstall**, Freie Universität Berlin / AGYA

**Dr. Anas al Khabour**, University of Gothenburg; **Dr. Tuba İnal Çekiç**, Off-University; **Djемila Carron**, InZone

### Track 2: Hosts

**Creating Opportunities & Managing Expectations: Synergies Between Academic Hosts & Administration**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Petra Roth**, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

**Dr. Arnim Heinemann**, University of Bayreuth; **Prof. Dr. Peter Nick**, KIT; **Prof. Dr. Annie Powell**, KIT

**S.U.C.RE-Survey on Refugee Scholars/Career Mentoring as Good Practice Example**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Johannes Müller**, University of Cologne

**Dr. Heike Berner**, University of Cologne; **Dr. Marinus Kool**, Vrije; Universiteit Amsterdam;

**Katrin Pieper**, University of Cologne

**DAAD: Refugee Programs**

MODERATOR: **Julia Kracht**, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

**Xenia Muth**, Bard College Berlin;

**Dr. Arnim Heinemann**, University of Bayreuth

**Legal Issues Related to Hosting a Threatened Scholar In Germany**

**Dr. Stephan Hocks**

**Movement Building: Advocacy Campaigns, Seminars & Legal Clinics**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua**, University of Ghana

**Lavinia Francesconi**, University of Chile; **Prof. Homa Hoodfar**, Concordia University; **Cynthia Tilden-Machleidt**, Berlin School of Economics and Law

**Capacity-Building for Threatened Scholars, Students & Academic Communities**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Johannes Müller**, University of Cologne

**Prof. Dr. Carmen Bachmann**, Leipzig University/chance-for-science.de;

**Mireia Nadal Chiva**, ReDI School of Digital Integration; **Dr. Mouhannad Malek**, Syrian Researchers

### Track 3: General Interest

**Current Threats to Scholars & Universities: Egypt**

MODERATOR: **Prof. Lisa Anderson**, Columbia University, SAR Board

**Mohamed Abdel Salam**, Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE); **Kholoud Saber Barakat**, Catholic University of Louvain
I rarely attend a conference with so much joint will to make a difference and learn from each other as members and countries. The interest and support to assist old and new members of the Scholars at Risk network was truly a remarkable thing to witness.

Apart from very inspiring stories of courage shown in adverse circumstances by scholars and human rights defenders from countries like Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Venezuela etc. What was also striking was the deep understanding of academic freedoms and democratic values and the emergent need to protect them.

Everything from the panels to plenaries, coffees and dinners were so perfectly organized and rich with content. A couple very special moments even brought me to tears. The energy across the Ford Building was palpable and I know everyone else felt the same.
COURAGE TO THINK AWARD

SAR’s Courage to Think Award is given to individuals or groups; to those who have experienced threats personally, those who have worked to assist them, or those who work to promote wider understanding of, and respect for, academic freedom and related values.

Prof. Dr. Catharine R. Stimpson, of New York University and Scholars at Risk Board Chair, presented the 2018 Courage to Think Defender Award to Academics for Peace for their work building solidarity among scholars inside and outside of Turkey. “Our award recipients tonight,” she said, “are not one courageous individual but many who are using their skills as researchers, as writers, as teachers, as people of the mind, as people of consciousness to resist a dark moment... In doing so, they are an embodiment of the responsibility to explain and to defend higher education and democratic values.”

In accepting the award on behalf of the group, Dr. Muzaffer Kaya shared, “Two years ago, when I was in prison, the most important thing that encouraged me was the opportunity to make people hear our voice.” Dr. Kaya, now a fellow at Technische Universität Berlin, was imprisoned for several weeks awaiting his trial for signing the Peace Petition. Tebessüm Yılmaz, a PhD student and member of Academics for Peace who joined Dr. Kaya in accepting the award, added, “Our aim remains the same: promoting peace. And that is the driving power of our resistance and solidarity. We are everywhere, keeping up with our academic work, and supporting each other by all means...”

The Courage to Think Award ceremony also included recognition of the scholars who could not attend the Global Congress in Berlin, including the many scholars and students imprisoned in Egypt, Ethiopia, Turkey, Iran, and elsewhere.

“We are here today [recognizing]...thousands of committed activists and a global movement to advance academic freedom as a personal entitlement and a collective obligation.”

PROF. DR. JACQUELINE BHABHA
Harvard University; Former & founding Board Chair, Scholars at Risk
LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020 the Scholars at Risk Network will celebrate its 20th anniversary and 10th Global Congress. SAR invites individual institutions, groups of institutions, and SAR sections or partners interested in hosting the Global Congress in 2020 or 2022 to submit a proposal.

For more information, please contact Lauren Crain, SAR Director of Research and Learning at:

lauren.crain@nyu.edu
Sponsors

Scholars at Risk, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and Freie Universität Berlin would like to thank the following organizations and partners for their continued support.

The Scholars at Risk Network is supported by generous individuals, network members, and institutions including:

- Open Society Foundations
- National Endowment for Democracy
- New York University
- Stichting Polar Lights
- Vivian G. Prins Foundation
- Carnegie Foundation
- aaup Foundation
- The Charina Endowment Fund
- Erasmus+
- Microsoft
- The Winston Foundation

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative is funded by:

- Auswärtiges Amt
- Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung
- Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
- Klaus Tschira Stiftung gemeinnützige GmbH
- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Gerda Henkel Stiftung

Additional support for the Global Congress by:

- Open Society Foundations
- National Endowment for Democracy
- The Charina Endowment Fund
- Carnegie Corporation
- Vivian G. Prins Foundation
- Stichting Polar Lights

“I want to thank the organizers for a phenomenal congress. The overall atmosphere was sincere, friendly and committed to fight injustice and for academic freedom. The mixture of knowledge presentation and personal experience created an excellent equilibrium of science and emotion. It was a pleasure to witness the congenial dialogues between participants of all walks of life, believing in the human right of freedom of academic work.”

2018 Congress Participant