



# Truth + POWER Society

*The Promise of  
Higher Education in  
Challenging Times*



**SCHOLARS AT RISK  
NETWORK 2020 VIRTUAL  
GLOBAL CONGRESS**

**MARCH 26–27**

CO-ORGANIZERS



SAR/Humboldt Foundation/SAR/David Ausserhofer

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Scholars at Risk (SAR) 2020 Global Congress, a virtual gathering via Zoom on Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27. Marking SAR's 20th year of service to the higher education community, the Congress brings together SAR Network members and partners around the world to explore the theme, **Truth, Power & Society: The Promise of Higher Education in Challenging Times**. In times of historic challenges not only to higher education, but to society in general, truth itself is under attack. The Congress theme recognizes this, and points to three core roles of higher education in response to these attacks: research and teaching leading to new insights and understanding; evidence-based contributions to public discourse and policy; and meaningful engagement with the broadest public good. How scholars, students, leaders, and the public understand these roles goes to the heart of increasing pressures on higher education around the world—from outside infringements on autonomy, violent protests, and wrongful prosecutions to imprisonment and more.

With the onset of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), these concerns are supercharged. Medical professionals and scholars across disciplines are playing a vital role in responding to the epidemiological, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of this crisis, as they will in the eventual recovery and restoration of essential functions and services of our institutions and society. At the same time, deliberate interference with the dissemination of data and intentional or negligent distortion of information delivered to the public and policy makers alike appear to have contributed to delayed and disorderly responses. How do we defend scientific integrity and academic freedom? Why should society value quality higher education during such a critical time?

The Congress provides a forum to discuss the importance of free and open university spaces, develop good practices for navigating unique challenges facing academia, and create opportunities to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and defend everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas.

We thank you for joining us over these two days and for your partnership in our shared and ever-strengthening global network. We look forward to our continued work together.



**Catharine R. Stimpson**  
Board Chair, Scholars at Risk Network



**Robert Quinn**  
Executive Director, Scholars at Risk Network

# 2020 VIRTUAL GLOBAL CONGRESS PROGRAM

## Day One

THURSDAY, MARCH 26		
New York EST	Vienna CET	SESSION
9:30 am	2:30 pm	<b>Academic Freedom in the MENA Region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David Wheeler, <i>Al-Fanar Media</i></li><li>• Dr. Hala Al-Dosari, <i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i></li><li>• Dr. Lisa Anderson, <i>Scholars at Risk</i></li></ul>
10:30 am	3:30 pm	<b>Responses to the Turkey Crisis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Tuba İnal-Çekiç, <i>Off-University</i></li><li>• Dr. Nil Mutluer, <i>Humboldt University of Berlin; Academics for Peace</i></li><li>• Dr. Johannes Müller, <i>University of Cologne</i></li></ul>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>PLENARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Laurel Leff, <i>Northeastern University and author of Well Worth Saving: American Universities' Life-and-Death Decisions on Refugees From Nazi Europe</i></li></ul>
12:00 pm	5:00 pm	<b>Academic Freedom, Free Expression, and Civil Discourse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lara Schwartz, <i>American University Project on Civil Discourse</i></li><li>• Dr. Hank Reichman, <i>American Assoc. of University Professors</i></li><li>• Dr. Nancy Thomas, <i>Inst. for Democracy and Higher Ed, Tufts University</i></li><li>• Michelle Deutchman, <i>University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement</i></li></ul>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>PLENARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome: Dr. Catharine R. Stimpson, <i>Scholars at Risk</i></li><li>• Opening Remarks: Robert Quinn, <i>Scholars at Risk</i></li><li>• <b>In Conversation with</b></li><li>• President Ronald J. Daniels, <i>Johns Hopkins University</i> and Dr. Jonathan Cole, <i>Columbia University</i></li></ul>

Register for Day One by clicking [here](#).

The program schedule for Day Two follows on the next page.

# Day Two

FRIDAY, MARCH 27		
New York EST	Vienna CET	SESSION
10:30 am	3:30 pm	<b>Academic Freedom Issues in Sub-Saharan Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Noel Twagiramungu, <i>Boston University</i></li><li>• Dr. Aschale Siyoum, <i>Xavier University</i></li><li>• Satang Nabaneh, <i>University of Washington School of Law</i></li><li>• Fraternel Amuri, <i>University of Kisangani</i></li></ul>
11:30 am	4:30 pm	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>Launch of Academic Freedom Index</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Katrin Kinzelbach, <i>Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg</i></li><li>• Janika Spannagel, <i>Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)</i></li><li>• Dr. Anna Lührmann, <i>V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg</i></li></ul>
12:00 pm	5:00 pm	<b>Teaching Academic Freedom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Robert Cole, <i>Roger Williams University</i></li><li>• Dr. Laurens Lavrysen, <i>Ghent University Human Rights Centre</i></li><li>• Federica Tagliavini, <i>University of Trento</i></li></ul>
1:15 pm	6:15 pm	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>In Conversation with</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President Paula Johnson, <i>Wellesley College</i> and Dr. Hahrie Han, <i>SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University</i></li><li>• Closing remarks: Robert Quinn, Dr. Catharine R. Stimpson, and Rosalie Wolf, <i>Scholars at Risk</i></li></ul>

Register for Day Two by clicking [here](#).

# THANK YOU

*Scholars at Risk would like to thank the following organizations and partners for their continued support.*

## CO-ORGANIZERS

Johns Hopkins University  
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)  
SAR United States

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