Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellowships

Scholars at Risk (SAR) announces a call for applications for five remote research fellowships for early career researchers who investigate issues focusing upon academic freedom and/or related higher education values. The fellowship program, made possible by the generous support of and partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is intended to provide support for a professional community of researchers who wish to develop and share related work leading to the completion of a formal written publication, a new course offering, workshop, webinar or other significant end product.

Over the course of the eight-month program, from November 2022 to June 2023, fellows will complete their proposed project and participate in monthly remote workshop sessions to present their work and offer feedback on the work of other fellows. During the latter part of the program, fellows will be expected to prepare and deliver an online talk or presentation of their work for SAR staff, network members, and/or guests (with appropriate security accommodations, as necessary). Fellows will receive a stipend of USD $8,000 intended to cover research expenses, publication, or other costs. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to gain exposure to SAR’s programming and to network with SAR partner-experts on academic freedom.
issues. See more about the 2021-2022 cohort of Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellows [here](#).

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**Conference on academic freedom in the Americas**

Join Scholars at Risk and our partners on the [Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas](#) (español) for an inaugural regional conference on academic freedom in the Americas at Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico, on November 10-11. We are currently seeking applications from prospective panelists and would welcome a wide range of contributions, from country-focused assessments of academic freedom to the adoption of academic freedom policies by higher education institutions. **To contribute, make a submission in response to this call for papers by August 31st. Follow [@CAFA-CLAA](#) to learn more.**

And more good news. The Coalition has also been invited by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to be a part of an academic network and to support their work monitoring and implementing the new [Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy](#) throughout the region. This network was established in 2021, with SAR and partners as inaugural members. The invitation to engage for a second year and maintain our partnership with the IACHR is a significant positive sign for the SAR Network in the Americas going forward.

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**Ahmed Samir Santawy released from prison!**

SAR welcomes the news that Ahmed Samir Santawy was released from prison in Egypt after 18 long months. On July 30, Mr. Santawy was released on a presidential pardon. Mr. Santawy is a postgraduate student at Central European University (CEU),
Austria, and studies women’s reproductive rights in Egypt.

SAR sends its thanks to the CEU community, partner organizations, and the SAR network, including student advocacy seminars, legal clinics, sections, and members that took part in advocating on Mr. Santawy’s behalf. SAR wishes Mr. Santawy safe travels back to Austria and our thoughts will remain with him, his family, and friends during his recovery.

Read CEU President and Rector Shalini Randeria’s statement here.

Read more »

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Scholars seeking hosts

*SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals who exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email hostingatSAR@nyu.edu.*

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A Scholar of Physics from Afghanistan

This scholar of theoretical physics specializes in nuclear and atomic physics and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Alongside his ample experience as a researcher and professor at universities in Europe, he served most recently

A Scholar of Public Policy from Pakistan

This scholar of public policy analyzes human rights and rule of law in Muslim majority countries through the study of policy, politics, and security studies. With over 15 years of lecturing, research, and media experience in South Asia

A Writer, Playwright, and Filmmaker from Uganda

This writer, playwright, and filmmaker portrays the experiences of the LGBTQ community and the political situation in Uganda. One of her plays was recently selected for a prestigious festival and her references note that she is “amongst the most
as the head of the Afghanistan Nuclear Energy Agency, working closely with international partners to develop infrastructure and expertise within Afghanistan. He reports risk of violence and threats to his life due to his high-profile work in the Afghan government, and is seeking research opportunities in Canada beginning immediately. (Afghanistan 1257)

and the Middle East, this scholar has actively promoted critical political and civil society engagement to further develop policy-informed approaches to politics and security studies in Pakistan and the wider Muslim community. He reports risk of arrest, prosecution, and violence due to his academic and civic engagement against religious repression and in support of democracy, rule of law, and human rights in Pakistan. (Pakistan 628)

vital and vibrant artistic voices [they] have come across” and praise her courage for championing LGBTQ rights. She reports facing harassment, intimidation, and risk of arrest in relation to her work. She is seeking a temporary university opportunity in the US beginning in November 2022 and is eligible for co-funding through SAR’s Practitioner-at-Risk program. (Uganda 542)

MSCA4Ukraine to be launched in September

As part of the EU’s response to the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine, a new dedicated fellowship scheme, MSCA4Ukraine, is to be funded under the Horizon Europe programme’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The scheme will support displaced researchers from Ukraine to continue their work at academic and non-academic organisations in EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries, while maintaining their connections to research and innovation communities in Ukraine. In order to prevent permanent brain drain, the scheme may also facilitate researchers’ reintegration in Ukraine if conditions for safe return are met, and contribute to strengthening the Ukrainian university and research sector and
its collaboration and exchange with the international research community. The MSCA4Ukraine will be implemented by a consortium comprised of Scholars at Risk Europe hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland (project coordinator), the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the European University Association. The French national PAUSE programme, hosted by the Collège de France, and the global Scholars at Risk Network will participate as associated partners.

A call for applications will be launched in September 2022. In the meantime, basic information about application requirements and a link to sign up to receive notifications about the scheme is available here.

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Dr. Alfred Babo on navigating American academia

"We were housed in a big brown chalet on Smith College’s campus. At 38 Paradise Road. The street’s name amused me a little bit when I thought of our journey that brought my family and me here from my country’s war zone."

Dr. Alfred Babo, a SAR scholar and professor at Fairfield University in Connecticut, USA, writes of his experience navigating American academia as a refugee scholar from West Africa in the Journal of International Mobility. The autoethnography weaves together Dr. Babo’s personal account and “theoretical discussions on acculturation stress and third space to highlight how refugees’ emotional challenges and ambivalent cultural identity affect their integration into their host country’s universities.”

In 2011, during the political and military crisis in his native Côte d’Ivoire, Dr. Babo endured direct threats from both students and military forces who perceived him – as an academic and of a particular ethnic group – to be in opposition to the new government. With support from SAR, Dr. Babo accepted a placement at Smith College in 2012 and later joined Fairfield University in 2016 as full-time faculty. He has since been a generous contributor to SAR’s scholar training activities, regularly guiding scholars at workshops on navigating academic career paths. Dr. Babo sits on
SAR’s Board, helping to shepard the wider SAR Network by providing perspective as an academic and serving as a voice for at-risk scholars.

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**News & Events**

**Helping at-risk scholars | UCI Magazine, July 20, 2022**

Reflections from Iryna Zenyuk, associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering. “This war, like no other, has managed to unite Ukrainians all over the world. In the last several weeks, I have met more Ukrainians at UCI than during the entire three years I’ve been here as a professor. As the days passed by, I felt the need to do something to help fellow Ukrainians, and an idea came to mind to host academics here at UCI.”

**Afghan chemists are afraid and uncertain | Chemical and Engineering News, July 23, 2022**

“After the Taliban takeover, chemists struggle to see their future in the country [...] ‘The need from Afghanistan has been unique,’ with a huge number of requests for assistance in a short period, says Rose Anderson, director of protection services at Scholars at Risk.”

**Brazilian university under continuous attack worries international entities | Le Monde diplomatique, July 23, 2022**

“The sharp rise in pressures on Brazilian higher education is a stark reminder that when authoritarianism takes hold, academic freedom is not just ignored and left unprotected – it is actively targeted.” Jesse Levine, Senior Advocacy Officer at Scholars at Risk.

**America Held Hostage: Day 15,606 | Wall Street Journal, July 25, 2022**
In a co-authored op-ed for the Wall Street Journal, Skylar Gleason, a recent Junior Advocacy Assistant at SAR, writes on approaches for countering the crisis of modern day hostage-taking that has ensnared high profile figures like WBNA star Brittney Griner and scholars like Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali.

SAR’s Hosting Consultation Drop-In Hour | August 25, 2022

SAR offers a monthly consultative hour for SAR members to drop-in and ask any questions related to their hosting activities. SAR encourages members to share updates about their ongoing activities and connect with other SAR members interested in hosting at-risk scholars. While members are encouraged to “drop-in” at any time during the hour, registration is required.


Scholars at Risk will attend the United Nations’ Universal Periodic Review pre-sessions in Geneva, August 29-31, to discuss the status of academic freedom in Brazil, India, and Indonesia. Colleagues from the Indonesian Caucus for Academic Freedom (KlKA) will join us to raise concerns about a pattern of repression targeting outspoken scholars and students in the country. If you plan to be at the pre-sessions, please let us know by contacting Jesse Levine at j4289@nyu.edu.

“Fundamental Academic Values Award” | Deadline for submission of proposals: August 31, 2022

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) announces a call for submissions for the “Fundamental Academic Values Award.” The award for early-career scientists is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). By awarding three prizes for research publications, the DAAD aims to contribute to the advocacy of fundamental academic values, to
promote important research in this area and to further stimulate the discussion about these values.

**Free Online Course on Academic Freedom | Sep 12, 2022 - Oct 14, 2022**

Beginning on April 20, Scholars at Risk is holding the fifth run of the free online course, "Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters," developed in collaboration with the University of Oslo and partners on the Academic Refuge Project. The course explores the meaning of academic freedom and how it relates to core higher education and societal values in 142 countries. This course run begins on September 12 and is free and available to anyone with internet access.

**Barcelona 2022: 32nd Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition | Barcelona, Spain, September 13-16**

Scholars at Risk will attend the EAIE 32nd Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition from September 13-16 in Barcelona, Spain. Individuals interested in connecting with SAR at the event can visit SAR’s stand in the exhibition hall and/or email Miriam Alphonsus at ma4834@nyu.edu.

**Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program | Deadline: October 17, 2022**

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program is an international exchange program that offers five-month fellowships to leading democracy activists, journalists, civil society leaders, and scholars from around the world to conduct independent projects at the National Endowment for Democracy.

**CIVIS3i announces a second call for applications for 16 postdoctoral fellowships | Deadline: October 27, 2022**

CIVIS3i fellowships are awarded through a highly competitive, strictly merit-based selection process, and are awarded to
talented individuals with challenging and innovative research projects of top academic quality. Applications are invited from academics of all nationalities and all disciplines.

Read more »

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