October 2023

Voices from the Network

Every year, SAR scholars bring a diverse wealth of knowledge and personal experience to the SAR Network, further enriching the academic landscape of their host institutions. These researchers and practitioners often focus on not only advancing knowledge in their respective fields, but also advocating for improved conditions in their home countries and regions. In doing so, they shed light on increasingly pressing rights issues that have led them and countless others to seek refuge abroad.

This past year, the Network has welcomed and reaffirmed its commitment to threatened scholars worldwide, including the two scholars interviewed below by their host institutions:

**A Safe Haven for Human Rights Work** features Dr. Mihreteab Tsighe Taye, a scholar of international law at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Taye speaks of his ongoing work to advance human rights amidst ongoing human rights violations in his home country of Ethiopia and his current research on the African Human Rights Court and the East African Community Court.

**Massume Zaki’s Search for Safety and Knowledge** features Dr. Massume Zaki, a scholar of physics at École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). Dr. Zaki shares her experience of fleeing Afghanistan, how she has expanded her research on photonics since, and her concern for fellow Afghan colleagues.
We encourage all SAR Network members to consider inviting a scholar to your campus this academic year. If your institution is able to host a threatened colleague, please review this list of more than 80 scholars for whom we are currently seeking positions, and contact the SAR staff at hostingatSAR@nyu.edu.

Scholars Seeking Hosts

**A Human Rights Lawyer and Researcher**
This human rights lawyer and researcher has extensive experience in defending freedom of assembly and advocating on behalf of people who have been subject to police violence. She holds a PhD in law. She reports facing risk of prosecution and arrest in relation to her work and is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities beginning immediately and is eligible for co-funding through SAR’s Practitioners at Risk program. (Russia-622)

**A Scholar of Education and Lifelong Learning Sciences**
This scholar of education and lifelong learning sciences specializes in teacher education with nearly a decade of postdoctoral lecturing, research, and administrative experience at Ethiopian universities. His research focuses on developmental psychology and educational measurement and evaluation, and analyzes ICT use in higher education. He reports harassment and arbitrary detention due to his Oromo ethnicity and political stance. He is seeking teaching and/or research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Ethiopia-751)

**A Scholar of Pharmaceutical Science**
This scholar of pharmacy and chemistry has ten years of teaching and research experience in Ethiopia, Italy, and the UK. His research interests center on drug discovery and development with a recent focus on novel small molecules that target epigenetic enzymes. He reports instances of intimidation, harassment, and detention in Ethiopia due to his Tigrayan ethnicity, and is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities in Belgium beginning immediately. (Ethiopia-774)
SAR Wallonia-Brussels Federation Section Launch

The Academy for Research and Higher Education (ARES), the Rectors’ Conference, French Community of Belgium (CRef), Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) and Université de Liège (ULiège) cordially invite you to the launching event of the newest national section of Scholars at Risk, the Wallonia-Brussels Federation section, on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

The members of the new Scholars at Risk Wallonia-Brussels Federation section are proud to come together to champion academic freedom and human rights. “To date, the member institutions have already developed a range of actions to host and offer concrete help to scholars at risk, in the form of practical solutions to facilitate the arrival, reception and integration of these people,” says the Wallonia-Brussels Section Steering Committee. “However, the alarming decline in academic freedom in recent years has led the members of the new section of the Scholars at Risk network in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation to join forces and develop more resources to help scholars in danger, and thereby demonstrate their deep attachment to academic freedom.” Read more and register »

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Directors & Hosts: Southeast Asia Academic Freedom Coalition

Scholars at Risk invites applications from candidates for a Regional Director position and Host Institution role that will develop, lead, and support a regional coalition that conducts activities aimed at promoting, mainstreaming, and strengthening academic freedom in Southeast Asia. Applications are due October 15, 2023.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Submit by: October 15, 2023

https://email.everyaction.com/EmailMessage/PreviewMessage/f638c197-9851-ee11-9937-00224832e811
If you have any questions about the application calls or would like to recommend candidates, please contact Daniel Munier, SAR's Program Manager for Regional Coalitions. 

Read more »

Register now: Second regional conference on academic freedom in the Americas

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOV 9 & 10, 2023

Curitiba, Brazil

The Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) presents the

SECOND CONFERENCE

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE AMERICAS

@CafaClaa

CAFA is pleased to invite advocates, academics, and activists from the Americas to the Second Conference on Academic Freedom in the Americas that will be held at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná-PUCPR in Curitiba, Brazil from November 9 to 10, 2023. This conference will be hybrid, combining in person and virtual presentations.

The conference will feature panels on academic freedom and contributions that highlight challenges and opportunities in protection, advocacy, litigation and best practices in academic freedom and university autonomy. It will also highlight the release of Scholars at Risk’s Free to Think 2023 report in a panel on academic freedom pressures around the world. 

Read more and register »

Register now: Scholars at Risk Summit

The Scholars at Risk initiative at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada is excited to organize the “Scholars At Risk Summit: Freedom to Think” this November 20-21, 2023 in downtown Ottawa.

The event will take place in cooperation with the Scholars at Risk Network, SAR Canada, the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund, the Middle East Studies Association Global Academy, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.
Through online and in-person events, the summit will provide a forum for understanding global threats to academic freedom, documenting the consequences of these threats, proposing credible pathways to defend intellectual independence and university autonomy, and providing support for scholars forced to flee their homelands. Scholars from a variety of disciplines, as well as other contributors from universities, governments, NGOs, and the wider community, are encouraged to join. Read more and register »

Webinar on open science in Ukraine:

Open Science principles and practices
25th October, 11-12.30 CEST

As part of the EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine scheme, SAR Europe will host a career development webinar for researchers from Ukraine on October 25th at 11am CEST. The event will explore how the concept of open science can contribute to the preservation and reconstruction of the Ukrainian higher education and research sector. Read more »

MSCA4Ukraine fellows are encouraged to maintain their connections to Ukrainian research and innovation communities in order to prevent permanent brain drain and strengthen the Ukrainian university and research sector. In this short video, ten MSCA4Ukraine fellows talk about their research linkages with Ukrainian institutions and science.

“I am planning to give a set of seminars for the students at a couple of universities in Ukraine,” says Nadiia Pushkarova, a MSCA4Ukraine fellow who researches biotechnology.
and is now based in the Czech Republic. “I hope the knowledge I get here will stay not just with me.” Hear fellows speak about their academic backgrounds and the impact of the war on their careers on the SAR Europe YouTube channel.

Ukrainian Science Diaspora Networks

The National Science Policy Network (NSPN)'s Science Diplomacy Fellowship has partnered with EURAXESS North America, an official project of the European Union, to promote researcher mobility and highlight European funding opportunities. As part of this fellowship, they are researching Ukrainian science diaspora networks in the United States and will author a report detailing what the EU, European countries, and the United States can do so these scientific diaspora networks can work more efficiently and to better leverage these groups. If you would be willing to provide any information about resources that the EU or US could provide or know of any other Ukrainian science diaspora groups based in North America they should contact, please reach out to Maya Evanitsky at mevanitsky@gmail.com.

Book recommendation: 'American Refuge'

"In this intimate and eye-opening book, Diya Abdo—daughter of refugees, U.S. immigrant, English professor, and activist—shares the stories of seven refugees. Coming from around the world, they're welcomed by Every Campus A Refuge (ECAR), an organization Diya founded to leverage existing resources at colleges to provide temporary shelter to refugee families.

We learn that these refugees from Burma, Burundi, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Uganda lived in homes they loved, left against their will, moved to countries without access or rights, and were among the 1% of the “lucky” few to resettle after a long wait, almost certain never to return to the homes they never wanted to leave. We learn that anybody, at any time, can become a refugee."

American Refuge was recently chosen by North Carolina Humanities for its statewide book club program, NC 2024 Reads, as one of five books that "explore issues of racial, social, and gender equity." Diya Abdo is a professor of English at Guilford College, a member of the SAR network. Read more »

Support SAR today

Support human rights and stand in solidarity with at-risk scholars around the world. Your contribution helps promote their indispensable scholarship and allows us to advocate on their behalf, preserving everyone's right to think, question, and share ideas. Give today »

SELECT OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

See a full list of scholar resources
Call for applications: Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP), Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR), Columbia University | Deadline: Oct 15, 2023
This program is designed for human rights activists working with NGOs. Participants are selected on the basis of their work experience in human rights, commitment to the human rights field, and demonstrated ability to pursue graduate-level studies. Applicants holding full-time jobs pursuing their advocacy efforts are preferred. Read more »

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program offers democracy activists, journalists, civil society leaders, and scholars from around the world the opportunity to spend five months in residence at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in Washington, D.C., in order to undertake independent research on democracy in a particular country or region. Read more »

Webinar series by The Opportunity Network for At-Risk Writers, Artists, Rights Defenders, and Scholars (ONWARDS) | Multiple dates Oct - Dec, 2023
ONWARDS supports displaced writers, artists, journalists, cultural workers, human rights defenders, and scholars living in the United States. See their upcoming series of workshops; topics include US Visas and work permits, the US healthcare and health insurance system, and finding and applying for academic jobs/non-academic jobs. Read more »

SELECT SAR & PARTNER EVENTS
See a full list of SAR events

Webinar: The Suppression of Academic Voices | Oct 12, 2023
This webinar will bring attention to the imprisonment of many academics worldwide and also showcase the particular case of Azerbaijani economist Dr. Gubad Ibadoglu, who was an original member of the New University in Exile Consortium, founded in 2018 at The New School. Dr. Ibadoglu has been unjustly imprisoned in Azerbaijan since July 23rd, 2023. This event will be the culmination of a month-long advocacy campaign to free Dr. Ibadoglu, and will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Read more »

Celebrate the extraordinary queer artists and fierce allies who are fundamental to the fight for artistic freedom worldwide with our friends at AFI. Dedicated to safeguarding the right to artistic freedom, AFI facilitates pro bono legal services and resettlement assistance to international artists at risk.

Read more »

Online Certificate Program: Advancing the Role of Community Stakeholders in Refugee Integration | Oct 20-22, 2023

On October 20-22, the Center for Principled Problem Solving and Excellence in Teaching at Guilford College (a new SAR member), Every Campus a Refugee, and Opening Universities for Refugees will offer an online certificate program designed to engage participants in learning about forced displacement and refugee resettlement and the methods by which community members can support and participate in refugee integration efforts while centering the agency and dignity of refugees as co-designers of those methods. Registration is open to individuals (including students and educators), campus and community-based organizations, and NGOs. Read more »

Academic Freedom Conference, The University of Bergen | Nov 2, 2023

UiB will host the Academic Freedom Conference to share stories of researchers and students who have been threatened to discontinue research projects or prohibited from researching altogether. During this event experts will present an overview of key trends in academic freedom internationally and senior members of the Norwegian education and research sector will discuss what is being done, and what we can do in the future, to strengthen academic freedom at home. Conference participation is in-person, and free of charge. Register »

European Student Advocacy Days at the University of Trento | Dec 14-15, 2023

Scholars at Risk, in collaboration with the University of Trento, the University of Padova, and SAR Italy, and co-funded by the European Union, invites students and faculty to join us December 14-15 at the University of Trento for European Student Advocacy Days 2023. The event will feature student presentations and workshops with civil society partners. Register »
MEDIA

“Where universities face emerging threats and crises” by Nathan M Greenfield, University World News | Sept 15, 2023

Bureaucratic and legal threats by governments, weaponising the law to control the curriculum and curtail critical analysis, anti-intellectual, populist and authoritarian rhetorical attacks and crackdowns on professors and their expertise, as well as increasing pressure to self-censor, have put academic freedom in decline worldwide. Read more »

Canadian Association of University Teachers: Interview with Jesse Levine | Sept 21, 2023

In an interview with CAUT, SAR Senior Advocacy Officer Jesse Levine discusses threats and challenges facing scholars and academic freedom, and how institutions can work to defend scholars’ right to freedom of expression. Register »

Do you know someone who may want to read this newsletter? Please forward it to them! Stay connected with SAR by subscribing to our newsletters here.

SCHOLARS AT RISK is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. Our international network of institutions and individuals shares a mission to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

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