

# SCHOLARS AT RISK 2024 GLOBAL CONGRESS

**Sustainable knowledge:**  
Lessons from universities,  
scholars and students in exile



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## Speakers and panelists

*Information as of 21 June 2024*

**Dr Ahmed**  
*University of Pavia*

**Anastasiia Lutsenko,**  
*Science at Risk*



**Dr. Aliaksei Lastouski**  
*European Humanities University*

Aliaksei Lastouski is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Political Studies “Political Sphere” (Lithuania) and research fellow at European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania). He completed a PhD in Sociology (candidate of sociological studies) in 2007 at the Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. He is one of the organizers of International Congresses of Belarusian Studies (held annually since 2011). In March 2022, he was dismissed from Polotsk State University in Belarus for political reasons. He has published articles on cultural and collective memory, national identity, intellectual history of Belarusian nationalism. Since April 2024, as academic director, he has headed the Belarusian Institute of Public History, a new initiative of independent Belarusian historians.

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**Dr. Amy Kapit**  
*Senior Program Officer,  
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Amy Kapit is a Senior Program Officer for Advocacy at Scholars at Risk, where she leads work on the Free to Think report series and the Academic Freedom Monitoring Project, tracking attacks on higher education communities. She has worked inside and outside academia, including as a Visiting Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College and as the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack's research director. Her work has focused on themes of humanitarian aid, the relationship between education, violence, and conflict, violations of human rights and academic freedom, and the role of indicators in global governance and knowledge production. She holds a PhD in International Education from New York University and a BA in Religion and Peace & Conflict Studies from Swarthmore College.

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**Prof. Dr. Anatoli Mikhailov**  
*Founding rector,  
 European Humanities University*

Professor Dr. Anatoli Mikhailov received his PhD in 1966 from Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena, having defended dissertation "Martin Heidegger und seine Kehre". His activities during Soviet Union period concentrated on overcoming the strict ideological control dominating philosophy. His book on philosophical hermeneutics, published in Minsk in 1984, was the first to present the until then unknown tradition and problems of hermeneutics to the Soviet public. Anatoli Mikhailov has been member of Martin-Heidegger-Gesellschaft (Germany), member of "Mesotes" journal editorial board (Vienna) and "Schopenhauer-Studien" (Hamburg). Over the years, presented at 50+ conferences in Germany, USA, France, Austria, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Sweden. In 1989, organized in Moscow the international conference dedicated to Heidegger's 100th anniversary. Organized first visit to the Soviet Union of Jürgen Habermas, translating Habermas' talk subsequently. In cooperation with Professor Fritjof Rodi (Bochum, Germany) initiated the translation into Russian of six volumes of Wilhelm Dilthey's Collected Works. In 1992 founded the first private university in Minsk, Belarus - European Humanities University which quickly developed into an internationally recognized institution, opening departments of Art, Law, Economics, Psychology, Political Sciences, as well as the first on the territory of former Soviet Union theology department. In 2005 founded the University again in Lithuania after its forced closure by Belarusian authorities in 2004. Recipient of various prestigious international awards, including Ordre des Palmes académiques (France 2003), Goethe Medal (Germany 2004), Fulbright Research Fellowship at Harvard University (USA 2005), Commander's Cross for Special Merit to the Republic of Lithuania (2008).

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**Dr. Asmaa Abusamra**  
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 University of Oslo*

Dr. Asmaa Abusamra is an assistant professor of Education Management and working now as a researcher at the University of Oslo under SAR scholarship program. She is also affiliated with the Humanities studies department at University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS) in Gaza, Palestine. She was the head of the Community Service and Continuing Education Department at UCAS.

She is now a project lead a NORHED project on technology-supported learning in the Palestinian higher education sector (funded by Norad, 2021-2026), she is also a pedagogical expert in 3EEE, Flipped Practical Courses VIA Triple Learning Environments which developed by Triple Experts teams whose are empowered through Triple Enhance programs project funded by (EACEA, ERASMUS+). Additionally, she is a member of the Council of Experts for Higher Education Reform in Palestine emanating from the National "Erasmus" Office. In 2024, she was honored with the Global Young Academy Membership for five years to engage in working groups, strategic projects, and collaborations with international partner organizations. These activities, all relevant to societal and scientific debate, are clustered into different thematic areas including Science; GYA & the SDGs; Research Environment; and Science Education & Outreach.

Asmaa is also a reviewer of different high-ranked Scientific journals such as The International Journal of Vocational Education and Training Research (IJVETR) and the Journal of Education. She is also an editorial member of the Jurnal Inovasi Teknologi Pendidikan. Her research interests include curriculum development, higher education reform, strategic planning, and education in war zones.

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**Bencharat Sae Chua**  
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Bencharat Sae Chua is a lecturer at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. She is also leading the new regional initiative - the Southeast Asian Academic Freedom Coalition. Her research interest is on social movements, human rights culture and democratization, with particular focus on Southeast Asia. Bencharat has been working with the Thai Academic Network for Civil Rights and other social movements to defend freedom of expression, academic freedom and rights to assembly in Thailand, especially during the military rule in the late 2010s. She also works to promote human rights and peace education in Myanmar, before and after the 2021 coup.

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**Camilla Croso**  
*Director,*  
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Camilla Croso is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas. She was previously Director of the Education Program at the Open Society Foundations, General Coordinator of the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education and President of the Global Campaign for Education. She has worked for the promotion of human rights, the right to education and the right to academic freedom for over twenty-five years. She has integrated the regional and global SDG4/ Education 2030 Steering Committees as well as the Board of the Global Partnership for Education. She integrates the Prevention Project: Education for Rights-Claiming led by the New York University and served as special advisor on international issues to the Argentine Education Ministry from 2020-2021. Camilla holds an MSc from the London School of Economics in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries and is currently undergoing her PhD on education governance at UNICAMP, Brazil.

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**Dr. Chika C. Mba**  
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Chika C. Mba is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, where his teaching and research cut across the broad domains of African philosophy, decolonial thought, human rights and global justice. He is the recipient of many international research fellowships and sponsorship awards, including the African Humanities Programme by the American Council of Learned Societies (2012); Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA's) Small Grants Programme for Thesis Writing (2013); the Unit for the Humanities at Rhodes University's (UHURU) Postdoctoral Fellowship (2015 – 2017); The Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) sponsorship (2019); the Mellon/Scholars at Risk (SAR) Fellowship (2022). He was recently (April 2024) appointed by the Executive Council of the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) as Principal Investigator (PI) for MIASA's thematic focus on "Human Rights". He is the coordinator of 'Reading Decolonisation in Africa Today.

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**Clare Robinson**  
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Clare Robinson is Advocacy Director at Scholars at Risk, where she leads SAR's efforts to identify, report on and respond to attacks on higher education communities worldwide. Ms. Robinson developed and manages SAR's Student Advocacy Seminars, faculty-led teams of students conducting advocacy on behalf of imprisoned scholars and students; and is responsible for advocacy working groups on Protecting Student Expression and Wrongful Prosecutions. She holds an MA in Politics/International Relations from NYU, where she was founding editor of the NYU Department of Politics' Journal of Political Inquiry. She was previously Public Information Officer in the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and is an active alumna of UCLA.

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**Denise Roche**  
*Advocacy Manager,  
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Denise Roche is the Advocacy Manager with Scholars at Risk's European office—SAR Europe—hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland. She leads the advocacy work to promote and protect academic freedom, including coordinating the activities of the European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy. Prior to joining SAR Europe in July 2020, Denise held a number of legal and policy positions across Ireland's private, public and non-for-profit sectors, including with the National Women's Council, the Law Reform Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and was as a Judicial Fellow of the High Court. Denise is a qualified solicitor, holds an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice from Northumbria Law School, England, and a BCL (International) Degree from University College Cork, Ireland.

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**Dominik Kalweit**  
*MSCA4Ukraine Programme Manager,  
 SAR Europe*

Dominik Kalweit is the Programme Manager of MSCA4Ukraine for Scholars at Risk Europe. Previously, he was the Vice Executive Director and Director for Projects & Initiatives for the Maltese non-profit Kopin. Dominik holds a Diplom (ISCED 7) from the University of Augsburg, Germany, in Political Science and Communication Sciences and has been active in international development cooperation, education and human rights related fields since 2005. In his career, he focuses on strategic planning, project development and management, networking, training, advocacy and research. Dominik is actively involved in a number of social justice and human rights initiatives, including Terre des Hommes' "Destination Unknown Campaign", the "Free the El Hiblu 3" campaign, and AidWatch.

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**Dr. Egemen Özbek**  
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Egemen Özbek is the academic coordinator of Academy in Exile at TU Dortmund, where he supports scholars, journalists, and cultural producers at risk to continue their work in Germany. He is also a researcher specializing in the politics of memory, with a particular emphasis on the Armenian genocide and commemorations. He earned his PhD in cultural studies from Carleton University, where his doctoral dissertation extensively examined the post-2010 commemoration of the Armenian genocide in Turkey.

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**Dr. Melanie Adrian**  
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Melanie Adrian is an Associate Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University. She is author of *Religious Freedom at Risk: The EU, French schools, and Why the Veil was Banned* (2016) and co-editor of *Producing Islams in Canada: On Knowledge, Positionality, and Politics* (2021). More

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recently her research examines identity amongst Muslim youth in private Islamic schools in Canada. Dr. Adrian serves as Associate Editor of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam in North America. Her op-eds have been published in the Globe & Mail and the Ottawa Citizen. Dr. Adrian was invested into the Order of Ontario in 2019 for her work for scholars at risk and breast cancer patients.

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**Edzia Carvalho**  
*Lecturer, Politics and International Relations*  
 University of Dundee

Dr. Edzia Carvalho joined the University of Dundee as Lecturer in Politics in January 2013. She teaches and researches human rights and democratic politics. She has run advocacy seminars for undergraduates and postgraduates in collaboration with Scholars at Risk since 2016. She has worked with the international NGO, FIDH, on its biennial progress report of the human rights protections by EU member states and with the Scottish Government on the Baseline Assessment of business and human rights in Scotland. Dr Carvalho has co-authored two monographs (Measuring Human Rights and Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics, 4th edition) with Prof. Todd Landman (University of Nottingham) and published by Routledge and journal articles published in Parliamentary Affairs, The DANS Data Journal, SAGE Research Methods, and The International Journal of Children’s Rights. She was Principal Investigator and is now a team member of the Qualitative Election Study of Britain, the world’s first longitudinal qualitative election study. Her current work focuses on human rights and qualitative methods. Her most recent publication (in Research Methods in Human Rights: A Handbook, ed. by Andreassen, O’Brien and Sano, Edward Elgar, 2024) maps out the use of qualitative methods in human rights research. Dr. Carvalho is also involved in research projects that intersect AI and the Just Transition to a green economy and human rights. She has a PhD in Government and an MA in Human Rights, both from the University of Essex.

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**Ms. Emily Moore**  
*Scholars at Risk*

**Encieh Erfani**  
*Co-Founder, International Community of Iranian Academics*

Encieh Erfani is a researcher currently at Mainz University. Previously, she held the position of Assistant Professor in the Physics Department at a university in Iran from December 2015 until her resignation in September 2022, in solidarity with protests in Iran. Since then, she has been an exiled scholar. Erfani earned her Ph.D. from Bonn University, Germany, in 2012, with a focus on Theoretical Physics/Cosmology. Following her resignation, Dr. Erfani has been a vocal advocate for academic freedom and human rights. In November 2022, she co-founded the International

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Community of Iranian Academics (ICOIA) to further this cause. She holds affiliations, including being a Fellow of the International Science Council (ISC), an Advisory Board member of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), a TWAS Young Affiliate member, and a member of the Global Young Academy.



**Dr. Ertug Tombus**  
*Humboldt University Berlin - CCRD / Off-University*

Ertuğ Tombuş is the deputy director of the Center for Comparative Research on Democracy and a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Social Sciences at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. He also works at Off-University as a volunteer, serving in various board positions. Ertuğ Tombuş is the co-founder and coordinator of the Academic Freedom Network within the Berlin University Alliance. Since 2017, he has worked with different groups to develop platforms and initiatives supporting scholars at risk and in exile. Before joining HU-Berlin, he taught at Columbia University, The New School for Liberal Arts, Eugene Lang College, and Western Connecticut State University. He was a visiting research fellow at Northwestern University and Yale University. Since 2009, he has been the managing editor of *Constellations: An International Journal for Critical and Democratic Theory*. He holds a Ph.D. in political science.

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**Dr. Frangis Dadfar Spanta**  
*TU Dortmund, Academy in Exile*

Dr. Frangis Dadfar Spanta has been working as an Academic Coordinator for Afghanistan at the Academy in Exile at the Technical University of Dortmund since August 2022. At the same time, she worked part time as a Senior Researcher at the Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies (BICC) from November 2022 to February 2023. At TU Dortmund University, she supervises a total of eight academics from Afghanistan. At BICC, she worked on various projects on Afghanistan (Rule of Law, Humanitarian Aid, Women's Rights). She completed her doctorate in political science at the Free University of Berlin. She conducted research on Afghan elites and patrimonial networks and worked with the GIZ, the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on measures for good governance in Afghanistan. For the International Organisation for Migration, she conducted research on the Afghan diaspora in the United States and Germany, and for GIZ she worked on a report on the Afghan-German diaspora in Germany. Her main interest is research on reconciliation and peacebuilding in the context of nation-building processes and (post-)conflict societies. Previously, she worked at the Aspen Institute Germany as a programme officer for the Middle East Programme and as a research associate and programme coordinator in the Good Governance Afghanistan Programme at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, University of Erfurt.

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**Frank Geary**  
*Director, Scholars At Risk Europe*

Frank Geary is the Director of SAR Europe, the European office of the global Scholars at Risk network hosted at Maynooth University in Ireland. Prior to joining SAR, Frank was the Director of the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA), a leading national network of over 120 civil society organisations and activists which has changed the policy landscape, created an award-winning Code of Good Practice, and developed a national strategic vision for global citizenship education. At IDEA, Frank was responsible for leading the organisation, implementing the IDEA Strategy and representing IDEA nationally and internationally. He has advocated for education and human rights to the United Nations, European Union, and Irish government. Before IDEA, Frank served progressively as the International Programmes Director, Deputy Director, and Interim Co-Executive Director at PEN International. SAR Europe, hosted at Maynooth University, is the European office of the global Scholars at Risk network. Launched at an event at the European Parliament in November 2018, the establishment of SAR Europe at Maynooth represents the culmination of nearly two decades of partnership between European higher education institutions and the global SAR network. The SAR Europe office supports and coordinates the activities of SAR national sections and partner networks across Europe to strengthen our collective voice at the European level and contribute to informed policymaking for the greater protection of scholars and increased respect for academic freedom worldwide.

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**Dr. Gabriele Freitag**  
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Gabriele Freitag is a historian with special a special interest in Eastern Europe and managing director of the German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Osteuropakunde / DGO) in Berlin. Previously she was as research associate at the Research Center for East European Studies, University of Bremen and managing director of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies at Freie Universitaet Berlin. Her dissertation was on Jewish migration in the early years of the Soviet Union. From 2015 until 2021 she was the general secretary of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES).

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**Hafte Gebrihet**  
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Hafte Gebrihet is a scholar of Public and Development Management with a specialty in urban land administration from Ethiopia. His current research focuses on building democratic governance and resilient institutions against corruption in Africa, with particular emphasis on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Africa’s Agenda 2063. He has over 12 years of teaching, research, and community service experience in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Norway.



**Ms. Homaira Fayez**  
*The Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

Homaira Fayez is a PhD candidate pursuing her degree at the Department of Architecture and Technology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Her research focuses on resource efficiency and circular economy for reusing and repurposing traditional wooden buildings in Norway. Homaira has worked as a lecturer of architecture at the Faculty of Engineering at Herat University in Afghanistan for a few years. She holds a Master of Science degree in engineering, technology, and architecture from the University of Hartford, CT – USA.

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**Mr. Horton Beebe-Center**  
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Horton Beebe-Center is the former president of Eurasia Foundation (2006-2018). He was directly involved in the design and launch of Eurasia Foundation’s locally chartered institutions in Russia, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus. Beebe-Center was in at the creation of pioneering institutions, many of which are still operating today – such as the Kyiv School of Economics and the European Humanities University, where he is a Chair of the General Assembly of Part-Owners. He holds a B.A. in Soviet studies from Brown University and an M.A. in Russian studies from Harvard University.



**Ian Bickford**  
*President,*  
*American University of Afghanistan*

Ian Bickford has been president of the American University of Afghanistan since 2021, leading the university through a period of dramatic change. Before coming to AUAF, he was the first provost of Fulbright University Vietnam where he guided the launch of Vietnam’s first American-style undergraduate program in the liberal arts and sciences. As an influential leader in the U.S. early college movement, which creates meaningful bridges between high school and college for younger students, Dr. Bickford served as provost and vice president of Bard College at Simon’s Rock; founding dean of Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock; and dean of the Bard Early Colleges. He is a specialist in Early Modern British and transatlantic literature, with an A.A. from Bard College at Simon’s Rock; B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley; M.A. from Stanford University; and Ph.D. from the City University of New York Graduate Center.

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**Ilya Kalinin**  
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Ilya Kalinin is a visiting scholar at Bard College Berlin and Humboldt University in Berlin. He got his PhD at Saint Petersburg State University (“Russian Literary Utopia, XVIII-XX Centuries: The Philosophy and Poetics of the Genre,” 2002). His recent researches focus on Russian Literature, early Soviet intellectual and cultural history, and on the historical and cultural politics of contemporary Russia. He is editor-in-chief of the independent intellectual journal “Versus. Journal of Liberal Arts and Sciences” (<https://versus.elpub.ru/jour>). By 2022 he was a professor at the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Smolny College), Saint Petersburg State University; and at the National Research University “Higher School of Economics” (Saint-Petersburg). He is an author of two books and more than 200 academic articles and public essays which have been translated into 15 languages.

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Iryna Ramanava holds a Ph.D. from Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus and is currently Professor of History at the European Humanities University (Vilnius), the Head of the Centre for Belarus and Regional Studies. CBRS works with researchers at risk from the region.

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**Prof. Jane O. Newman**  
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Jane O. Newman teaches Comparative Literature at UC Irvine (USA). Books: *Pastoral Conventions* (1990) and *The Intervention of Philology* (2000), and *Benjamin's Library: Modernity, Nation, and the Baroque* (2011). She is also the translator of a collection of the German-Jewish exile scholar, Erich Auerbach's essays, *Time, History, and Literature. Selected Essays of Erich Auerbach* (Princeton, 2014). Fellowships: Fulbright, Guggenheim, and Humboldt grants. Research residencies: National Humanities Center (2015-16), American Academy in Berlin (2017), Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (2023-24). She is also on the Board of Trustees of the National Humanities Center (Research Triangle, NC). Newman is currently completing "Early / Modern Mimesis: Essays on Erich Auerbach" and "After Westphalia: Pre- and Early Modern Lessons for a Post-Modern Age." She is on the Steering Committee of the U.S. Section of the Scholars at Risk network and the Advisory Board of the Academy in Exile (Dortmund, Germany). She is also the Chair of the University of California Systemwide Co-ordinating Committee for Scholars at Risk.

**Jane Unrue**  
*Director, Scholars at Risk Program at Harvard University*



**Jonathan Fanton**

*President Emeritus of The Academy of Arts and Sciences; Former President of The MacArthur Foundation*

Dr. Fanton is an American historian and President Emeritus of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Before coming to the Academy, he served as Interim Director of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. From 1999 to 2009, Dr. Fanton was President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and for seventeen years was President of The New School for Social Research. Earlier in his career, Dr. Fanton was affiliated with the University of Chicago and Yale University, where he was Special Assistant to President Kingman Brewster.

Dr. Fanton has long been associated with charitable and development organizations and has chaired the Human Rights Watch, Security Council Report, the Union Square Local Development Corporation, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New York. Dr. Fanton is currently on the boards of Scholars At Risk, World Refugee and Migration Council, American University Afghanistan, European Humanities University and the American Exchange Project. He is currently a Senior Fellow at Hunter College.

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**Dr. Kateryna Horiunova**

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Kateryna Horiunova holds a PhD in management and is a junior researcher in the Department of Business and Rural Development Management, Faculty of Bioeconomy Development, at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania. She is an associate professor at the Department of Marketing and Tourism, Educational and Scientific Institute of Management Mariupol State University, Ukraine.

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**Dr. Kherieh Rassas**  
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Kherieh Rassas is President of UNIMED (Mediterranean Universities Union [www.uni-med.net](http://www.uni-med.net)), and Vice President of An Najah National University ([www.najah.edu](http://www.najah.edu)). Kherieh is Laureate of Award by Her Majesty the Late Queen Elizabeth II (Serving Sister Grade V MStJ), and also a Laureate of Award by H.E President Emanuel Macron (Chevalier, L'Ordre National de Merite). Kherieh is on the board of various local and international institutions, known as an International Expert in Higher Education and Governance. Kherieh served for six years as Senior Special Advisor to Former Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. Kherieh had been very active in terms of legislation of health related laws as well as civil rights laws. She was born in Jerusalem, and has pursued studies in France, South Africa, the UK and Israel. Additionally, Kherieh is married, is a mother of four, and speaks five languages as well as sign language.

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Khoo Ying Hooi, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of International and Strategic Studies at Universiti Malaya (UM), where she also leads the UM Research Group on Human Rights. Her research focuses on the intersectionality of power, human rights, democratisation, and civil society in Southeast Asia. She is the author of "The Bersih Movement and Democratisation in Malaysia" (SIRD/ ISEAS/ Lexington Books, 2020) and "Seeds of Dissent (Gerakbudaya, 2015). Ying Hooi has also co-edited several volumes, such as "Social and Political Deglobalisation: Covid-19, Conflict and Uncertainties in Malaysia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), "Marginalisation and Human Rights in Southeast Asia" (Routledge, 2022) and "Rethinking Human Rights and Peace in the Post-Independence Timor-Leste through Local Perspectives" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). Ying Hooi serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Malaysian Journal of International Relations (MJIR), and she sits on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs, Journal of Southeast Asian Human Rights (JSEAHR) and Indonesian Law Review (ILREV). She also received several fellowships, including the Mellon/ SAR Academic Freedom Fellowship, the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) Curriculum Fellowship, and visiting fellowships at Kyushu University and Mahidol University. In addition to her academic roles, Ying Hooi has extensive experience in the field of human rights and democracy in Southeast Asia. These roles include serving as a Vice-Chair in the Society for the Promotion of Human Rights (PROHAM) and Board Member in the Innovation of Change - East Asia Governance Circle (EAGC).

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**Dr. Ksenia Luchenko**  
*Deputy Dean for External Relations,  
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Ksenia Luchenko is a journalist, researcher, and analyst who emigrated from Russia in 2022. Former dean of the Department of Media Communications at the Moscow Higher School of Social and Economic Sciences and head of the Department of Theory and Practice of Media Communications at the School of Public Policy of Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. Led educational programmes to develop media literacy. Visiting fellow at European Council on Foreign Relations (EC FR), Lecturer at Free University (Svododny Universitet/Brīvā Universitāte), deputy dean for external relations of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Montenegro. Areas of expertise: Russian media and journalism, Media literacy, Propaganda and Ideology, Russian Orthodox Christianity and Its Influence on Russian politics and society; Church-state and church-public relations in Eastern Europe at the present stage; political and cultural history of the Russian Orthodox Church in the 20th and 21st centuries.

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Vladimir Petrovic researches mass political violence and strategies of confrontation with its legacy. He completed graduate studies in contemporary history at Belgrade University, comparative history at Central European University and postdoctoral studies in transitional justice at NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam where he currently works. He teaches at University of Amsterdam, and has taught at Boston University, Central European University and Harvard Extension School. His book *The Emergence of Historical Forensic Expertise: Clio takes the Stand* (Routledge, 2017) examines the role of historians and social scientists as expert witnesses in some of the most dramatic legal encounters of the 20th century and his book *Etničko čišćenje: geneza koncepta* (Arhipelag, 2019) explores the origins of the concept of ethnic "cleansing". He is also among the conveners of the Invisible University of Ukraine and holds research professorship at the Institute for Contemporary History in Belgrade, where he leads an Innovation Center.

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**Dr. Zoryna Boiarska**  
*Ukrainian Science Diaspora,  
 Chairperson of the Ukrainian Department of Lithuanian Scientific Society,  
 Vilnius University*

Dr. Zoryna Boiarska is the head of the Ukrainian Department of Lithuanian Scientific Society. The Ukrainian department unites Ukrainian scientists who are currently in Lithuania, as well as scientists from Ukraine who cooperate with Lithuanian scientific institutes and organizations. The main goal of the Ukrainian Department and the entire Lithuanian Scientific Society is the active integration of Ukrainian scientists into the European scientific community and comprehensive support and collaboration with Ukrainian scientists working in wartime conditions. Dr. Zoryna Boiarska actively cooperates with the Ukrainian Scientific Diaspora, aiming to enhance its integration and development within the European scientific community. This collaboration facilitates the exchange of knowledge and resources, strengthens research capabilities, and supports the diaspora's contribution to scientific advancements and innovation in their new environments. As a researcher at the Life Sciences Center of Vilnius University, Dr. Boiarska focuses on the study of physical and mental well-being and their importance in ensuring personal resilience and effectiveness in the face of challenges related to crises and migration. Dr. Zoryna Boiarska emphasizes the critical importance of the integration of Ukrainian scientists to the European scientific community, promoting the exchange of experience, the spread of European values in science and the implementation of joint projects. These efforts are aimed at creating strong international ties that support and develop scientific and educational initiatives, contribute to global development and mutual understanding. Dr. Boiarska is also the director of the public organization "Democratic Initiatives Incubator," where she manages projects aimed at supporting democracy and civic engagement.

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**Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis**  
*Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament (Seimas)*

Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis is a career Lithuanian diplomat since 1993. He attended Vilnius University where he earned a master's degree in philosophy and PhD in political science. Pavilionis was Assistant Director of Policy from 1994-1995, leading political section of European Integration Department as Associate European Correspondent from 1995-1999. He worked in Brussels at the Lithuanian Permanent Mission to the EC from 1999-2002 as Co-Secretary of Association Council, Accession Conference to the EU, Lithuania's Deputy Chief Negotiator. Pavilionis was then promoted to lead the European Union Department from 2002-2004, became Political Director and Deputy Foreign Minister from 2005-2009. He served as Chief Coordinator for Lithuania's presidency of the Community of Democracies (2009-2010), Lithuanian Ambassador to the US and Mexico (2010-2015) and Ambassador-at-Large for Europe's East (2015-2016), lectured at General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania (2015-2016). In 2016 and 2020 he was elected to Lithuanian Parliament by the votes of Lithuanian World diaspora and Vilnius residents. Since 2016 he is a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Chair of this Committee since 2020 and currently. He was also Chair of Transatlantic and Democracy Subcommittee (2016-2020) and Deputy Chairman of the European Committee (2019-2020 and currently), Head of Democratic Belarus

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Parliamentary group (since 2020 and currently). Since 2022 Ambassador Pavilionis chairs Lithuanian-Ukrainian Parliamentary Assembly. Since 2016 Ambassador Pavilionis is International Secretary of the currently ruling Lithuanian center-right party (Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats). Since 2022 - Lithuanian Co-Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) and founder of global parliamentary alliance "United for Ukraine" (U4U). In his free time, Žygimantas Pavilionis practices Aikido, Taekwondo and his second degree Black Belt. He speaks English, Italian, Russian, French, German, and Polish. Married and has four sons.

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