SCHOLARS AT RISK 2024
GLOBAL CONGRESS

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

June 25–27, 2024
Vilnius, Lithuania

In partnership with
European Humanities University

Co-hosts and Sponsors:

This event is co-hosted by Scholars at Risk, European Humanities University, and Vilnius Municipality

Co-sponsors:

Additional support for the Congress, pre-meetings, and related projects provided by:

Mellon Foundation | Charina Endowment Fund | Charles Koch Foundation | European Union

Freedom House | Fritt Ord Foundation | Gerda Henkel Foundation | Henry Luce Foundation

Microsoft Corporation | National Endowment for Democracy | National University of Ireland, Maynooth | New York University

Open Society Foundations | Vivian G. Prins Foundation | Wiley Impact Fund | Winston Foundation

Registration & hotels

Those attending are asked to complete the registration form on the SAR website. A list of hotels is available on the SAR website. The primary hotels are the Hotel Panorama and Comfort Hotel, approximately a 15-minute walk from the event locations. (Participants are responsible for paying for their own travel and reservations (unless agreed in advance in writing with SAR.)

Information as of 6 June 2024. Updates will be added on the SAR website prior to the event.

Questions or more information: contact sarcongress@nyu.edu
**TUESDAY, JUNE 25th**

**Pre-congress meetings**

EHU main building, Savičiaus str.17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Room set up</td>
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</table>
| 10:00 AM| SAR member institution networking *(informal)*  
               Scholar/practitioner networking *(informal)* |
| 11:30 AM| Registration & light buffet lunch                                     |
Based on documents and memories the exhibition will represent the three-year period of EHU history as the most dramatic one. The exhibition will demonstrate the existence of the university community "in between": work on both sides of the border from its closure in Belarus through relocation to registration in exile in Lithuania. Remarks from Professor Aliaksandr Kalbaska, EHU |
| 12:30 PM| **WELCOME PLENARY FOR THE PRE-CONGRESS MEETINGS**  
*with remarks from*  
  PhD Vilius Šadauskas, Acting Rector of European Humanities University  
  Sarah Willcox, SAR Deputy Director |
| 1:00 PM| **SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting** *(by invitation)*  
  **Scholar/practitioner workshop** *(pre-registration required)*  
  Intended for scholars and practitioners supported through SAR, EHU, MSCA4Ukraine, and other partner programs. SAR protection team staff explore with participants topics including making the most of a placement; navigating the academic job market (advanced); writing and applying for research grants; networking and building community; planning for transition; and mental wellness in transition.  
  **Information sharing for SAR member institutions, new and prospective members** *(all welcome)*  
  SAR membership, advocacy, and protection team staff will explore with participants topics including network orientation for new member institutions, how to host scholars/practitioners on your campus most effectively, and introductions and latest opportunities in SAR’s advocacy, research, and learning activities, including Student Advocacy Seminars, legal clinics, values workshops, and academic freedom curricula.  
  **Regional coalition meeting:**  
  **Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA)** *(by invitation)*  
  **Regional coalition meeting:**  
  **African Academic Freedom Coalition** *(by invitation)*  
  **Regional coalition meeting:**  
  **Southeast Asian Academic Freedom Coalition** *(by invitation)* |
| 3:30 PM| Break & coffee                                                        |
| 4:00 PM| Continue scholar/practitioner workshop  
Continue information sharing for SAR member institutions, new and prospective members  
Continue regional coalition meetings  
**Meeting for SAR sections and members in Europe** |
| 5:30 PM| **CLOSING PLENARY**                                                   |
| 6:00 PM| **FILM SCREENING: Another Summer - Stories of Exile (2024)**  
Exclusive screening of a documentary film by and about Afghan and Ukrainian refugees. Introductory remarks from director David Edwards, Professor, Williams College & Board member, American University of Afghanistan. **NOTE:** The film includes nongraphic footage from inside Afghanistan and Ukraine depicting periods of conflict, displacement, or stress. Viewer caution is advised. |

**Questions or more information:** contact sarcongress@nyu.edu
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th AM

Pre-congress meetings
EHU main building, Savičiaus str.17

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration, coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Current and prospective network member Q&amp;A drop-in sessions with SAR staff</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scholar/practitioner workshop (continued)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joint meeting of regional coalitions &amp; SAR Europe AF Advocacy Committee (by invitation)</td>
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<td>National SAR section meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting (continued) (by invitation)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>National SAR section meetings (continued)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regional coalitions wrap up meetings (by invitation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting (continued) (by invitation)</td>
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<td>National SAR section meetings (continued)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>European Advocacy Committee meeting (by invitation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch for participants in pre-meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40 PM</td>
<td>Short walk to Vilnius Town Hall for Congress opening plenary</td>
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th PM
SAR Global Congress
Vilnius Town Hall

12:00 PM
Registration & information

EXHIBIT: What We Brought with Us
In partnership with Academy in Exile

“What we brought with us” is an exhibition of things people took when they fled persecution, suffering, and war. It makes us question our connection to things and to one another, prompting us to reflect on what is most precious. What single thing stands in for a lost world? Is belonging defined in material terms? What if, in leaving, we can take nothing?

OPENING PLENARY
“Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students responding to crisis, repression, authoritarianism, and exile”

Welcome remarks from
PhD Vilius Šadauskas – Acting Rector of European Humanities University
Lisa Anderson, Board Chair, Scholars at Risk

1:00 PM
PANEL: Lessons from the founding of the European Humanities University

• Mr. Maximas Milta, The Reckoning Project, moderator
• Prof. Anatoli Mikhailov, EHU founding rector
• Dr. Jonathan Fanton, SAR board, EHU board
• Žygimantas Pavilonis, Seimas of Lithuania
• Mr. Horton Beebe-Center, EHU General Assembly of Part-Owners
• Liudmyla Ulyashina, EHU Faculty Senate

2:00 PM
Break

Lessons from Afghanistan
This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education communities in or from Afghanistan, before, during or after the crisis of August 2021.

• Egemen Özbek, Academies in Exile, TU Dortmund University, moderator
• Prof Victoria C. Fontan, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, American University of Afghanistan
• Frangis Dadfar Spanta, Coordinator of the Afghanistan Program, Academy in Exile, TU Dortmund University
• Murtaza Mohiqi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Sports & Educational Science, University of South-Eastern Norway
• Homaira Fayez, PhD student at NTNU

Monitoring academic freedom, from the local to the global
This session will examine efforts to document, report on, and monitor attacks on academic freedom and higher education communities in different regions, ranging from local faculty led efforts, to NGO monitoring, to emerging efforts to develop academic freedom monitoring attached to interstate systems.

• Monika Steinel, Deputy Secretary-General, European University Association (EUA), moderator
• Liviu Matei, Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy, King's College London
• Sol Iglesias, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman
• Amy Kapit, Sr. Program Officer, Advocacy, Scholars at Risk
• Ilyas Saliba, Non-Resident Fellow, Global Public Policy Institute

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Courage to Think dialogues
Short, interview format dialogues with formerly at-risk scholars, practitioners, students, and others who exemplify personal courage and dedication to freedom of inquiry and expression, despite the costs.
• Abeer Ahmed (microbiology, Yemen, University of Pavia) in dialogue with Tuba inal Çekić, Off-University
• Hafte Gebrihet (public policy, Ethiopia, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) in dialogue with Thabit Jacob, Lund University

3:45 PM
Break & coffee

Lessons from EHU/Belarus
This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education communities in Belarus.
• Dr. Aliaksej Laastouski, European Humanities University, moderator
• Prof. Dr. Iryna Ramanava, European Humanities University
• Vytis Jurkonis, Project Director, Freedom Hause
• Dr. Gabriale Freitag, German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Osteuropakunde)
• Prof., Dr. Tatiana Shchyttsova, EHU
• Dr. Philipp Christoph Schmädeke, Science at Risk Emergency Office

4:15 PM
Student engagement in academic freedom advocacy
This session will examine efforts to engage higher education students in academic freedom advocacy at the national, regional, and international levels.
• Melanie Adrian, Associate Professor, Department of Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University, moderator
• Edzia Carvalho, Lecturer, Politics and International Relations, University of Dundee
• Salvador Herencia-Carrasco, part-time Professor, Section de Droit Civil, University of Ottawa
• Selma Bratberg, President, SAIH
• Maksim Zafranski, Belarusian Student Association

Private workshop for participants/programs from or working for Russian institutions, scholars, and students.

Courage to Think dialogues
Short, interview format dialogues with formerly at-risk scholars, practitioners, students, and others who exemplify personal courage and dedication to freedom of inquiry and expression, despite the costs.
• Parwiz Mosamin (public administration, Afghanistan, Università della Svizzera italiana) in dialogue with Roger Pfister, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
• Raha Sabet Sarvestany (women's studies, Iran, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies) in dialogue with Leona Binz, SAR

5:45 PM
GROUP PHOTO

6:00 PM
Break

COURAGE TO THINK DINNER
welcome remarks from
Rob Quinn, Executive Director, Scholars at Risk
virtual remarks from
Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of the Centre for Civil Liberties, Ukraine, winner of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize

7:00 PM
Keynote
Dr. Ian Bickford, President, American University of Afghanistan
Presentation of the SAR Courage to Think Award

9:00 PM
End
### MORNING PLENARY

**Sustaining higher education in crisis: Responding to Gaza**

*In partnership with UNIMED*

**Opening remarks**

**Dr. Kherieh Rassas**  
Vice President, An Najah National University, Palestine, & President, UNIMED

- Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED, moderator
- Dr. Saida Affouneh, TESI initiative
- Dr. Shameq Sayeed, OxPal
- Dr. Nishat Naz Asan, Gaza Global University
- Dr. Mahmoud Loubani, Palmed Academy, Gaza Educate Medics (GEM)
- Dr. Asmaa N. Abusamra, University of Oslo, Project Lead, Digitalization in Higher Education in Palestine

**Lessons from Ukraine**  
*This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education in or from Ukraine.*

- Dominik Kalweit, Programme Manager of MSCA4Ukraine, Scholars at Risk Europe, moderator
- Anastasia Lutsenko, Science at Risk
- Dr. Vladimir Petrovic, academic director and co-organizer, Invisible University for Ukraine
- Dr. Zoryna Boiarska, Ukrainian Science Diaspora, Chairperson of the Ukrainian Department of Lithuanian Scientific Society, Vilnius University

**Academic freedom advocacy in the UN and regional systems**  
*This session will examine efforts to increase understanding and protection of academic freedom within and through interstate and regional human rights and higher education systems.*

- PJ Thum, Managing Director, New Naratif, moderator
- Camilla Croso, Director, Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA)
- Kwadwo Appligyey-Atua, University of Ghana
- Bencharat Sae Chua, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University
- Denise Roche, Advocacy Manager, SAR Europe & Inspireurope+

**New research on academic freedom**  
*This session will explore new academic freedom research supported by the Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellowships/Seminar.*

- Usang Maria Assim, Associate Professor, Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights, University of the Western Cape, moderator
- Rosario Figari Layus, Post-doctoral researcher, Justus Liebig University of Giessen in Germany
- Khoo Ying Hooi, Associate Professor at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya
- Chika Mba, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

**Courage to Think dialogues**  
*Short, interview format dialogues with formerly at-risk scholars, practitioners, students, and others who exemplify personal courage and dedication to freedom of inquiry and expression, despite the costs.*

- Nathan Salman, practitioner, in conversation with Jane Unrue, Harvard SAR
- Mohammed Alruqimi (computer science, Yemen, University of Verona) in conversation with Emily Moore, SAR

**11:45 AM Break /coffee**
Lessons from the United States
This session will examine lessons to be drawn from the recent protests and unrest on higher education campuses in the U.S.

• Nina Burleigh, US journalist/author, moderator
• Lisa Anderson, SAR Board Chair, former Dean, Columbia University, former President, AU Cairo
• Jane O. Newman, UC Irvine & SAR US Section Steering Committee

Successes and challenges in advocating for support for at-risk scholars
This session will examine lessons from individuals and projects advocating for greater attention, assistance, and funding for at-risk scholars, practitioners, and students.

• Laura Lohéac, Programme PAUSE, Collège de France, moderator
• Lauren Berntsen, Program Adviser, SAIH
• Lisa Krieg, Associate Vice President, Global Strategic Initiatives & Institutional Accreditation, Carnegie Mellon University
• Ertuğ Tombuş, Humboldt University CCRD & Off-University
• Encieh Erfani, International Community of Iranian Academics

Lessons from resistance to/in Russia
This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and independent higher education communities in and outside Russia, with particular attention to efforts to assist scholars, practitioners, and students at-risk because of or for their public opposition to the invasion and ongoing war against Ukraine.

• Vasily Zharkov, Visiting Lecturer, European Humanities University, moderator
• Ksenia Luchenko, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Montenegro) & Brivā Universitāte
• Dmitry Dubrovsky, Boris Nemtsov MA in Russian Studies & Free University (Latvia)
• Ilya Kalinin, Smolny Beyond Borders, Bard College Berlin
• Oleksandr Shtokvych, OSUN-TSI, Central European University

Private workshop for participants/programs from or working for Ukrainian institutions, scholars, and students.

CLOSING PLENARY
What’s next for the SAR's mission & the network? Follow-ups & action plan
Rob Quinn, SAR Executive Director

Recognitions

2:00 PM
Lunch

ROLLING
Departures

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th
Departures for international participants

Questions or more information: contact sarcongress@nyu.edu