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

Event Details

**REGISTRATION**

Those attending are asked to complete the registration form on the SAR website.

Hotels

A list of hotels is available on the SAR website. The primary hotels for participants 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).

Congress Program

As of 14 May 2024. Updates will be added on the SAR website prior to the event.

MONDAY, JUNE 24th

Arrivals for international visitors attending pre-sessions
### TUESDAY, JUNE 25th

**Pre-congress meetings**

EHU main building, Savičiaus str.17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Room set up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>SAR member institution networking <em>(informal)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scholar/practitioner networking <em>(informal)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration &amp; light buffet lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>WELCOME PLENARY FOR THE PRE-CONGRESS MEETINGS with remarks from Rector, EHU &amp; Sarah Willcox, SAR Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting <em>(by invitation)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scholar/practitioner workshop <em>(pre-registration required)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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 <em>(all welcome)</em> 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) <em>(by invitation)</em> Regional coalition meeting: African Academic Freedom Coalition <em>(by invitation)</em> Regional coalition meeting: Southeast Asian Academic Freedom Coalition <em>(by invitation)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Break &amp; coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Continue prior sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>CLOSING PLENARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>FILM SCREENING: Another Summer - Stories of Exile (2024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exclusive screening of a documentary film by and about Afghan and Ukrainian refugees. Introductory remarks from director David Edwards, Professor, Williams College &amp; Board member, American University of Afghanistan. <strong>NOTE:</strong> The film includes nongraphic footage from inside Afghanistan and Ukraine depicting periods of conflict, displacement, or stress. Viewer caution is advised.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

**Questions or more information:** contact [sarcongress@nyu.edu](mailto:sarcongress@nyu.edu)
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th PM**

**SAR Global Congress**

Vilnius Town Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration &amp; information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXHIBIT: What We Brought with Us</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;i&gt;In partnership with Academy in Exile&lt;/i&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>OPENING PLENARY&lt;br&gt;“Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students responding to crisis, repression, authoritarianism, and exile”&lt;br&gt;&lt;i&gt;welcome remarks from&lt;/i&gt;&lt;br&gt;Rector, EHU&lt;br&gt;Lisa Anderson, Board Chair, Scholars at Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PANEL:</strong> Lessons from the founding of the European Humanities University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>Lessons from Belarus&lt;br&gt;&lt;i&gt;This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education communities in Belarus.&lt;/i&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr. Aliaksej Laastouski, European Humanities University, moderator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prof. Dr. Iryna Ramanava, European Humanities University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Vytis Jurkonis, Project Director, Freedom Hause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr. Andrei Kazakevich, Institute of Political Studies “Palitychnaya sphera”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr. Philipp Christoph Schmädeke, Science at Risk Emergency Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>Monitoring academic freedom, from the local to the global&lt;br&gt;&lt;i&gt;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.&lt;/i&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Monika Steinel, Deputy Secretary-General, European University Association (EUA), moderator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Liviu Matei, Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy, King's College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sol Iglesias, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Amy Kapit, Sr. Program Officer, Advocacy, Scholars at Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ilyas Saliba, Non-Resident Fellow, Global Public Policy Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Questions or more information:** contact sarcongress@nyu.edu
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, Academy 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 & Education, University of South-Eastern Norway
- Homaira Fayez, PhD student at NTNU

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 İnal Çekiç, 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 inside Ukraine
This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education communities in or from Ukraine, focusing on projects and individuals operating inside Ukraine, despite the challenges and dangers of the ongoing conflict.

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

5:45 PM GROUP PHOTO

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

6:00 PM Break

7:00 PM QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION
Questions or more information: contact sarcongress@nyu.edu

9:00 PM End
THURSDAY, JUNE 27th
SAR Global Congress
Vilnius Town Hall

8:30 AM  Registration/coffee

9:00 AM  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)

Lessons from outside Ukraine
This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education communities in or from Ukraine, focusing on projects and individuals displaced from or otherwise operating outside of Ukraine.

- Dominik Kalweit, Programme Manager of MSCA4Ukraine, Scholars at Risk Europe, moderator
- Dr. Viktoriya Sereda, Head Coordinator, Virtual Ukrainian Institute for Advanced Study (VUIAS)
- Indrė Isokaitė-Valužė, Center of Ukrainian Law (UAC), Vilnius University (invited)
- Dr. Vladimir Petrovic, academic director and co-organizer, Invisible University for Ukraine
- Dmytro Mamayev, Lithuanian Ukrainian Academics Centre at Ukreate Hub, Ukrainian Science Diaspora

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.

- Camilla Croso, Director, Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA)
- Kwadwo Appiagyei-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 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

Questions or more information: contact sarcongress@nyu.edu
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 Newman, UC Irvine & SAR US Section Steering Committee
- Anne McCall, President, The College of Wooster & Chair, 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
- Alexandra Hiniker, 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, Center for Independent Social Research & Boris Nemtsov MA in Russian Studies, Charles University
- 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.

CLOSED PLINARY
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

6:00 PM
Possible informal dinner for those remaining

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th
Departures for international participants

Questions or more information: contact sarcongress@nyu.edu