

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



European Humanities University



Co-sponsors:

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

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

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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 19 June 2024. Also available on the [SAR website](#).

Questions or more information: contact sarcongress@nyu.edu

TUESDAY, JUNE 25th

Pre-congress meetings

EHU main building, Savičiaus str.17

- 10:00 AM **SAR member institution networking (informal) Library**
Scholar/practitioner networking (informal) Room 104
- 11:30 AM Registration & light buffet lunch **1st floor corridor**
- EXHIBIT: An Impossible Dream? E.H.U. International between Closure and Recovery (2004–2006)**
2nd Fl. corridor
- 12:15 PM Based on documents and memories, the exhibition will represent the most dramatic three-year period of EHU history. 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.
- 12:30 PM **WELCOME PLENARY FOR THE PRE-CONGRESS MEETINGS Room 110***
with remarks from
 PhD Vilius Šadauskas, Acting Rector of European Humanities University
 Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director, Scholars at Risk
- SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting (by invitation) Room 220**
- Scholar/practitioner workshop (pre-registration required) Room 110**
 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. **(possible breakout sessions in Rooms 106, Library)**
- 1:00 PM **Information sharing for SAR member institutions, new and prospective members (all welcome) Room 221***
 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)* **Room 104**
Regional coalition meeting: African Academic Freedom Coalition *(by invitation)* **Room 120**
Regional coalition meeting: Southeast Asian Academic Freedom Coalition *(by invitation)* **Room 119**
- 3:00 PM Break & coffee **1st floor corridor**
- Continue scholar/practitioner workshop **Room 110**
- 3:30 PM Continue information sharing for SAR member institutions, new and prospective members **Room 221**
 Continue regional coalition meetings **Rooms 104 (Americas), 119 (SE Asia), 120 (Africa)**
 Continue SAR IAC meeting (3:30-4:30) **Room 220**
- 4:30 **Meeting for SAR sections and members in Europe (4:30-5:30) Room 220**
- 5:30 PM **CLOSING PLENARY Room 110***
- 6:00 PM **FILM SCREENING: Another Summer - Stories of Exile (2024) Room 110**
 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.*
- Free evening

*Overflow capacity in Room 303.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th AM
Pre-congress meetings
EHU main building, Savičiaus str.17

- 8:30 AM Registration, coffee **Courtyard**
- 9:00 AM **Scholar/practitioner workshop** (continued) **Room 110** (possible breakout sessions in Rooms 106, Library, 119, 120)
Current and prospective network member Q&A drop-in sessions with SAR staff (9:30-10:30) **Room 220**
Joint meeting of regional coalitions & SAR Europe AF Advocacy Committee (by invitation) **Room 221**
SAR United States section meeting **Room 104**
- 10:30 AM **Scholar/practitioner workshop** (continued) **Room 110**
Regional coalitions wrap up meetings (by invitation) **Rooms 104** (Americas), **119** (SE Asia), **120** (Africa)
SAR International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting (continued) (by invitation) **Room 220**
European Advocacy Committee meeting (by invitation) (10:30 – 11:30) **Room 221**
- 11:30 AM Lunch for participants in pre-meetings **Courtyard**
- 12:40 PM Short walk to Vilnius Town Hall for Congress opening plenary

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th PM
SAR Global Congress
 Vilnius Town Hall

12:00 PM

Registration & information **Lobby**

EXHIBIT: What We Brought with Us 2nd floor landing

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 Big Hall

"Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students responding to crisis, repression, authoritarianism, and exile"

Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director, Scholars at Risk, mc

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. Dr. Anatoli Mikhailov, EHU founding rector
- Dr. Jonathan Fanton, SAR board, EHU board
- Žygimantas Pavilionis, Seimas (Parliament) of Lithuania
- Mr. Horton Beebe-Center, EHU General Assembly of Part-Owners
- Dr. Liudmyla Ulyashyna, Chair of the EHU Senate

2:00 PM

Break

Lessons from Afghanistan Big Hall

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.

2:15 PM

- Dr. Egemen Özbek, Academy in Exile, TU Dortmund University, moderator
- Prof. Victoria C. Fontan, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, American University of Afghanistan
- Dr. Frangis Dadfar Spanta, Coordinator of the Afghanistan Program, Academy in Exile, TU Dortmund University
- Murtaza Mohiqi, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Sports & Educational Science, Univ. of South-Eastern Norway
- Homaira Fayez, PhD candidate at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Monitoring academic freedom, from the local to the global Chamber Hall

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
- Prof. Dr. Liviu Matei, Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy, King's College London
- Dr. 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 Mayor's Hall

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.

- Ahmed (microbiology, Yemen, University of Pavia) in dialogue with Dr. Tuba Inal-Çekiç, Off University
- Hafte Gebrihet PhD (public policy, Ethiopia, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) in dialogue with Thabit Jacob, Lund University

Private workshop for participants from or working for Russian institutions, scholars, and students. **Grey Room**

3:45 PM

Break & coffee **Lobby**

Lessons from EHU/Belarus Big Hall

This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education communities in Belarus.

4:15 PM

- Dr. Aliaksei Lastouski, European Humanities University, moderator
- Prof. Dr. Iryna Ramanava, European Humanities University
- Vytyis Jurkonis, Lecturer, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University
- Dr. Gabriele Freitag, German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Osteuropakunde)
- Prof., Dr. Tatiana Shchytsova, European Humanities University
- Dr. Philipp Christoph Schmädke, Science at Risk Emergency Office

Student engagement in academic freedom advocacy Chamber Hall

This session will examine efforts to engage higher education students in academic freedom advocacy at the national, regional, and international levels.

- Dr. 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 - The Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund
- Maksim Zafranski, Belarusian Student Association

Courage to Think dialogues Mayor's Hall

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 Mosamim (public administration, Afghanistan, Università della Svizzera italiana) in dialogue with Dr. Roger Pfister, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Raha Sabet Sarvestany (women's studies, Iran, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies) in dialogue with Leona Binz, Scholars at Risk

5:45 PM

GROUP PHOTO Town Hall steps

6:00 PM

Break

COURAGE TO THINK DINNER EHU courtyard

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 to the "scholars of Ukraine"

remarks from honorary recipient

Dr. Kateryna Horiunova, Mariupol State University & Vytautas Magnus University

9:00 PM

End

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THURSDAY, JUNE 27th
SAR Global Congress
 Vilnius Town Hall

8:30 AM	Registration/coffee Lobby
9:00 AM	<p>MORNING PLENARY Big Hall</p> <p>Sustaining higher education in crisis: Responding to Gaza</p> <p>In partnership with UNIMED Frank Geary, Director, Scholars at Risk Europe, mc</p> <p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <p>Dr. Kherieh Rassas Vice President, An Najah National University, Palestine, & President, UNIMED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED, moderator • Dr. Saida Affouneh, TESI initiative • Dr. Shameq Sayeed, University of Leicester & 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
10:30 AM	<p>Lessons from Ukraine Big Hall</p> <p><i>This session will examine lessons learned by defenders of academic freedom and higher education in or from Ukraine.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominik Kalweit, MSCA4Ukraine Programme Manager, Scholars at Risk Europe, moderator • Anastasiia 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 <p>Academic freedom advocacy in the UN and regional systems Chamber Hall</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pingjin Thum, Founder, New Naratif, moderator • Camilla Croso, Director, Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) • Prof. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, School of Law, University of Ghana, Legon • Bencharat Sae Chua, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University • Denise Roche, Advocacy Manager, SAR Europe & Inspireurope+ <p>New research on academic freedom Grey Room</p> <p><i>This session will explore new research supported by the Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellowship/ Seminar.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usang Maria Assim, Associate Professor, Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights, University of the Western Cape, moderator • Dr. Rosario Figari Layus, Post-doctoral researcher, Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany • Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi, Associate Professor at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya • Dr. Chika C. Mba, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon <p>Courage to Think dialogues Mayor's Hall</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Salman, practitioner, with Jane Unrue, Director, Scholars at Risk Program at Harvard University • Dr. Mohammed Alruqimi (computer science, Yemen, University of Verona) in conversation with Emily Moore, SAR
11:45 AM	Break /coffee Lobby

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Lessons from the United States Big Hall

This session will examine lessons to be drawn from the recent protests and unrest on higher education campuses in the U.S.

12:00 PM

- Nina Burleigh, US political journalist, author, adjunct professor New York University, moderator
- Lisa Anderson, SAR Board Chair, Dean Emerita, Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- Prof. Jane O. Newman, UC Irvine & SAR US Section Steering Committee
- Dr. Melanie Adrian, Associate Professor, Department of Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University, moderator

Successes and challenges in advocating for support for at-risk scholars Chamber Hall

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, Executive Director, Programme PAUSE, Collège de France, moderator
- Lauren Berntsen, Protection Lead, The Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH)
- Lisa Krieg, Associate Vice President, Global Strategic Initiatives & Institutional Accreditation, Carnegie Mellon University
- Dr. Ertuğ Tomuş, Deputy Director of CCRD and Senior Research Associate at HU-Berlin, Volunteer at Off-University
- Encieh Erfani, Co-Founder, International Community of Iranian Academics

Lessons from resistance to/in Russia Grey Room

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 PhD, Deputy Dean for External Relations, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Montenegro
- Dmitry Dubrovsky, Boris Nemtsov MA in Russian Studies & Free University (Latvia)
- Ilya Kalinin, Smolny Beyond Borders, Bard College Berlin
- Oleksandr Shtokvych, Head of Secretariat, Open Society University Network (OSUN) and Co-Director, Threatened Scholars Integration Initiative, Central European University

Private workshop for participants from or working for Ukrainian institutions, scholars, and students. **Mayor's Hall**

CLOSING PLENARY Big Hall

1:30 PM

What's next for the SAR's mission & the network? Follow-ups & action plan

Rob Quinn, Executive Director, Scholars at Risk

Recognitions

Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director, Scholars at Risk

2:00 PM

Lunch **Lobby**

ROLLING

Departures

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th

Departures for international participants

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