January 2024

SAR 2024 Global Congress – Register Now!

We are pleased to announce to the SAR Network that we will host a 2024 Global Congress from June 25-27, 2024 in partnership with the European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius, Lithuania. The theme, "Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students in exile," seeks to explore and capture the experience of current and prior generations of academic communities forced into exile by political unrest, repression, disaster and conflict.

The Global Congress is SAR's largest convening and held generally every 2-3 years. The event brings together network members and partners to learn, share experiences, build solidarity, and inform SAR’s activities and agenda for the coming years.

We hope you join us! See a preliminary program and register on the SAR website.

SAR Europe Director and Recruitment

As many across the SAR Network know, Sinead O’Gorman stepped down from the SAR Europe directorship in December. Over 16 years with SAR, Sinead set the highest possible
standards in all aspects of her work, tirelessly raising awareness and securing critical protections for at-risk scholars around the world. We thank Sinead for her leadership and wish her all success in her future actions.

Sinead’s legacy will be carried forward by the formidable SAR Europe staff. A posting for the new SAR Europe Director position is available here. Until the new director is in place, SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn will serve as Acting Director of SAR Europe.

SAR Europe is also recruiting a Policy & Programme Manager for the Inspireurope+ project following Joel Hanisek’s move to the University of Galway.

Please help us honor Sinead’s and Joel’s indelible contributions by sharing these open opportunities with your networks.

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**SAR is hiring!**

SAR is looking to fill four crucial roles to support global efforts to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom.

**Program Assistant – Protection, Membership & University Relations (SAR Secretariat, US)** The Program Assistant will play a key role within the SAR Protection and Membership teams, working directly with threatened scholars and developing university engagement in all areas of SAR’s programming. The position, which may be remote, requires strong research and writing skills as well as timely and professional communication, including with international scholars, members, partners, clients, SAR and NYU staff, and the public. [Read more and apply »](#)

**Department Administrator (SAR Secretariat, New York)** The Department Administrator will manage a variety of administrative and business processes and operations to ensure the effective delivery of services and efficient office operations. This position involves managing budgets and preparing financial reports, acting as an administrative liaison with other New York University (NYU) offices, and applying NYU policies to manage complex administrative matters. [Read more and apply »](#)

**Europe Director (SAR Europe, Ireland)** SAR seeks a Europe Director to lead SAR’s European office through the next phase of its growth. The Director will have overall responsibility for the management of SAR’s European office, including oversight of all operational and programmatic aspects, people management, strategy, planning, fundraising, and communications. The Director will lead a growing team of (currently) five staff and will liaise closely with the global offices of the SAR Network, based in the United States. [Read more and apply »](#)

**Policy & Programme Manager (SAR Europe, Ireland)** SAR Europe seeks a Policy & Programme Manager to manage key projects and activities. In the near term, this will include primary responsibility for management of Inspireurope+, an EU-funded, multi-partner initiative which facilitates transnational co-operation between European and national initiatives and
programmes in support of researchers at risk. Over time, as SAR Europe attracts new funding and undertakes additional projects, it is expected the Policy & Programme Manager will take on responsibilities for new projects and activities and other relevant duties and responsibilities as assigned by the SAR Europe Director. Read more and apply »

Scholars Seeking Hosts

SAR Scholars are at-risk higher education professionals who exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email hostingatSAR@nyu.edu.

**Scholar of Translation Studies | Ukraine-583**
**Expertise:** 20+ years of university experience with a focus on literary translations, political discourse and rhetoric for ESL and translation students, and intersemiotic and interlingual translations
**Reported risk:** Situational risk and physical insecurity due to the Russian invasion and ongoing conflict
**Seeking:** Teaching and/or research in Canada, beginning immediately

**Scholar of Computer Science | Afghanistan-839**
**Expertise:** Six years of university experience, recent teaching experience in the US, specializes in natural language processing and neural machine translation
**Reported risk:** Heightened risk by the Taliban in relation to his identity as a member of an ethnic and religious minority group in Afghanistan and education and academic work abroad
**Seeking:** Teaching and/or research positions in the US beginning in June 2024

**Scholar of Mechanical Engineering | Iran-845**
**Expertise:** Six years of university experience in Asia, Australia, and Europe, strong publication record, specializes in nanoscale heat transfer, laminar/turbulent flow, thermal application of graphene/2D/hybrid nanomaterials, and thermal-fluid sciences
**Reported risk:** Risk of arrest and imprisonment in relation to his pro-democracy activism in Iran
**Seeking:** Teaching and/or research position in Australia, beginning immediately

SEE ALL SCHOLARS >

Scholar webinar: academic careers in North America
SAR will be hosting a webinar for scholars entitled "Navigating new academic spaces in North America: Lessons learned from at-risk scholars." We will gain expertise from three scholars who have had successes navigating new academic careers in North America.

These scholars will share their experiences with publishing, teaching, and securing independent job opportunities in academia, and what helped contribute to their successes. Please join us and share with your wider networks. The webinar will be on February 15th at 3 pm EST. See speakers and register »

Publication: Professional Identity in Higher Education

Abdulghani Muthanna, associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and alumni SAR scholar, has co-edited a book on academic professionalism, *The Development of Professional Identity in Higher Education: Continuing and Advancing Professionalism*. The book includes first-hand accounts from academics and practitioners on developing professional identity in the context of higher education, including a chapter from Dr. Muthanna on academic professionalism.

Of his motivation to edit this volume, Dr. Muthanna shares, "Our reflections on challenges and how we face such challenges are useful for redirecting the efforts of our academic and administrative colleagues toward a fair preparation and implementation of work, assessment, and treatment ethics." Dr. Muthanna has also recently co-authored an article on "A model of the interrelationship between research ethics and research integrity" in *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-being*. SAR congratulates Dr. Muthanna and all co-authors for these important contributions.
SAR warmly welcomes the newest cohort of Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellows! Made possible by the generous support and partnership of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Workshop and Fellowship program provides a research stipend and supportive professional community for researchers to develop and share work on academic freedom and/or related higher education values. Over the course of the eight-month program through June 2024, fellows complete their proposed project and participate in regular virtual workshop sessions, including sharing the results of their work with the wider SAR community. Read about each fellow & their project »

Over 500 students advocate for Scholars in Prison

Scholars at Risk is grateful to the over 500 students at 21 universities in 8 different countries who conducted research and advocacy in support of Scholars in Prison, as detailed in SAR’s 2022-2023 Student Advocacy Seminar end-of-year report. Working in conjunction with SAR’s Advocacy team, students research country conditions, monitor cases, and work collaboratively to advocate on behalf of wrongfully detained scholars.

This year, participants raised awareness about 9 Scholars in Prison from China, Central Europe, and the Middle East. Seminars ran social media campaigns, held public events, and organized meetings with public officials to demand global action. Learn about student advocacy efforts and how to get involved here. Read the report »
Last month, SAR released a call to action in response to the ongoing crisis in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank and the devastating impact on higher education communities in and outside the region. SAR’s call to action outlines the impact of the crisis on higher education communities—from the threat of violence and insecurity to violations of academic freedom and the right to free expression—and calls on states, non-state armed groups, the higher education sector, civil society, and the public to:

1. Protect higher education communities from attack
2. Support scholars and students from the region who are at-risk
3. Protect and promote academic freedom and institutional autonomy
4. Combat violence, intimidation, hate speech, and discrimination, on and off campus, without sacrificing core values

The call also outlines SAR and partner resources for assisting at-risk scholars, responding to and preventing attacks, responding to hate speech, and promoting evidence-based dialogue. Learn what actions you can take »

Scholars at Risk is deeply grateful to all those who supported our work this past year. With your help, we reached new heights, expanding our network and arranging more positions for more scholars than ever before. Learn more about the impact that your support makes for all those who have come under threat for sharing ideas and asking questions. Learn more »
Online event: ONWARDS: Finding and making the most of fellowships and residencies | Jan 19, 2024
If you are a displaced writer, artist, journalist, scholar, cultural worker, or human rights defender, a temporary residency or fellowship can be a lifeline as you work to establish yourself in the United States. In this interactive session, learn how to find and apply for these opportunities and how to thrive once you have been accepted. Read more »

Call for Applications: Afghan Scholars in Canada Academic Advancement Grant, 2024 | Deadline: January 31, 2024
This call for application invites Afghan scholars in Canada to apply for a writing and publication workshop aimed at supporting scholars from Afghanistan to publish their scholarly work in academic journals. The grant is open to any discipline and intended to support scholars who are in an advanced stage of preparing their research for publication and are looking for publication workshops or mentorship support to get their work published. In addition to research support, the grant is planned to cover costs associated with participation in one in-person mentorship and writing workshop at the University of British Columbia in the Spring of 2024, and virtual academic workshops at Carleton University. Read more & apply »

Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York Protective Fellowship | Deadline: Feb 18, 2024
The fellowship provides human rights defenders at risk with an opportunity to enhance their research skills and share their expertise with other human rights defenders, academics and students. During their stay, they will work on a research project related to their work in their home country/region and attend human rights courses taught at the Centre. More information can be downloaded here: PFS 2024. For questions, please reach out to hrdhub@york.ac.uk.

Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York Protective Writing Fellowship | Deadline: Feb 18, 2024
This is an exciting programme for HRDs in key or leadership positions in their local human rights movements, keen to develop their own and their organisation’s or movement’s research potential, and record learnings from their human rights work to be shared with the global human rights community. More information can be downloaded here: PWF 2024. For questions, please reach out to hrdhub@york.ac.uk
Forum Curator at the Miami Institute for the Social Sciences | Deadline: Rolling

The Miami Institute for the Social Sciences—a virtual community of scholars bringing to the center of academic scholarship perspectives and understandings of the Global Majority in the social sciences and neighboring fields—invites scholars in the SAR Network to curate virtual forums on topics of interest to them in their fields. At the Miami Institute, curators of virtual forums tend to bring together a group of four to five colleagues across the Global South and North to reflect on a central question about their field to which the group responds first through relatively informal and short essays of 1,500 words. Once the essays are published online at the Miami Institute—with open access—the forum curator leads a virtual public conversation among the essay authors. See examples of virtual forums here. Please email the Miami Institute for the Social Sciences with interest (miamisocialsciences@gmail.com).

SELECT SAR & PARTNER EVENTS

See a full list of SAR events

SAR Scholar Webinar: Navigating new academic spaces in North America: Lessons learned from at-risk scholars | Feb 15, 2024

SAR will be hosting a webinar for scholars on February 15th at 3pm EST entitled “Navigating new academic spaces in North America: Lessons learned from at-risk scholars. Learn more »

SAR 2024 Global Congress | June 25, 2024

SAR invites you to register for the 2024 Global Congress to be held June 25-27, 2024, in partnership with the European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius, Lithuania. Global Congresses are SAR’s largest network events, and bring together leading scholars, advocates, students and professionals to rethink issues of academic freedom and related values, to learn from each other, and to help shape SAR’s agenda for the coming years. Register today »

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.
protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

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