Carleton University
Scholars at Risk: Annual Report 2016

About the Program
SAR is an international network of higher education institutions dedicated to protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks on higher education communities, and promoting academic freedom worldwide. The network protects scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being by arranging positions of sanctuary at institutions in the network. SAR is about providing refuge and benefits the local academic community.

Carleton University and the University of Ottawa joined the Scholars at Risk (SAR) network in 2014. Working together, the universities co-host a scholar each year through this program.

In Their Own Words...
Ottawa’s first Scholar at Risk, Mr. Raeesi: “When I left my country, I did not know if I would ever be able to return. On that day, as a 44-year old human rights lawyer with over 20 years of practice, I felt that I had lost my livelihood, my career, and my passion. Thanks to the support of Carleton/Ottawa U’s SAR initiative, I am finding a way back into my chosen career while making key connections so that I can continue working on advancing human rights issues.”

Carleton student, Patara McKeen: “As a student, Carleton’s SAR initiative has allowed me to draw attention to the links between the freedom to think and write, the pursuit of democracy, and the realization of human rights. Meeting and working with people who dedicate their lives to helping others has been a truly extraordinary experience.”

Our SAR Ottawa Scholars
2017 – To Be Announced – Carleton University and uOttawa are currently finalizing details for this year’s scholar and more information will be provided shortly.

2015-2016 - Mr. Hossein Raeesi - Mr. Raeesi practiced law in Shiraz, Iran, for 20 years. He is the founder and former head of the Human Rights Committee of the Far Province Bar Association. He is also the founder of *Neday-e Edalat* (The Voice of Justice) Legal Association in Shiraz. Raeesi defended political prisoners, journalists, women, and children who were sentenced to the death penalty as a pro bono attorney. Mr. Raeesi taught International Human Rights and Sharia Law – LAWS 4903 A at Carleton University.

L-R: John Packer, Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa, Viviana Fernandez, Assistant Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa, Hossein Raeesi, Gary Anandasangaree, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge Park Melanie Adrian, Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University
SAR Ottawa Joint Committee Members

Carleton Members:
- Angelo Mingarelli, Mathematics and Statistics – Interim Chair
- Andrew Johnston, History
- Daniel McNeil, History
- Michael Brklacich, Geography and Environmental Studies
- Lana Keon, Graduate Administrator, Department of English Language and Literature
- John Nelson, International Outreach Manager, Office of the Vice-President (Research and International)
- Norah Vollmer, Manager, Faculty Affairs, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
- Melanie Adrian, Law and Legal Studies (on leave)
- Randall Gess, Linguistics and Language Studies/French (on leave)

University of Ottawa Members:
- Emily Bates, Director, University of Ottawa Refugee Assistance Project (UORAP)
- Nathalie Des Rosiers, Dean, Common Law Section, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa
- Caroline Faucher, Communications and Events Management Officer, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa
- Viviana Fernandez, Assistant Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa
- Jamie Liew, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, University of Ottawa
- John Packer, Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa

Activities

Events
- June 8-10, 2016: Scholars at Risk Network Global Congress (McGill University)
- May 18, 2016: Subcommittee on International Human Rights Committee (42nd Parliament, 1st Session)
- May 6, 2016: Courts and Judicial Procedure in Early Islamic Law (632-1250 AD) (Harvard University)
- March 30, 2016: Meet Our Scholar at Risk - Hossein Raeesi (University of Ottawa)
- February 25, 2016: Readings from Banned and Challenged Materials (Carleton University)
- February 11, 2016: The Refugee Crisis and Mental Health (University of Ottawa)
- December 10, 2015: Gary Anandasangaree, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge Park devotes his speaking time in the House of Commons to SAR Ottawa and human rights.
- November 30, 2015: Challenges of Human Rights Defenders (Carleton University)
- November 25, 2015: JurisTalk: The Criminalization and legal consequences of Apostasy in Islam (Carleton University)
- November 19, 2015: Law, Nation and Sexuality: A Critical Dialogue (University of Ottawa)
- November 11, 2015: Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk (CUSFSAR) Present a dialogue between Prof. Melanie Adrian and Mr. Hossein Raeesi (Carleton University)
- October 21, 2015: Death Penalty: Current Reflexions (University of Ottawa)
- October 7, 2015: Meet Our Scholar at Risk - Hossein Raeesi (Carleton University)
• September 21, 2015: *What does it mean to do human rights work? A conversation with Mr. Raeesi and human rights students* (Carleton University)
• September 16, 2015: *Presentation to the Risk and Insurance Management Society in Ottawa* (University of Ottawa)
• FALL 2015: *LAWS 4903A - Human Rights, Sharia Law and Islamic Legal System* (Carleton University)
• March 4, 2015: *Je Suis Scholar* (Carleton University)

Conferences Attended
June 8-10, 2016 - **2016 Global Congress: Universities in a Dangerous World** (McGill University, Montreal) Carleton staff, students, and faculty attended and represented the university in workshops, panels and in a keynote speech during the awards dinner. Carleton University and Ottawa University were featured prominently in every aspect of the conference and highlighted as a new and unique collaboration amongst SAR member institutions. Additionally, as a recognition of the impressive achievements of the SAR student groups, the President of the group was amongst four students asked to receive the 2016 Scholars at Risk Courage to Think Defender Award on behalf of the 2,000 scholars and student imprisoned in Egypt. It was a great honor for Carleton University.

L-R: (SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn is behind the podium), Board Members Catherine Stimpson and Irv Epstein, SAR Student Group members Jonas Wightman (Illinois Wesleyan University), Patara McKeen (Carleton University), Madison Hunke (University of Iowa), and Abby DeVeuve (Roger Williams University).

Melanie Adrian, Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University

L-R: Nathalie Des Rosiers, Dean, Common Law Section, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa Viviana Fernandez, Assistant Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa, Hossein Raeesi, and Norah Vollmer, Manager, Faculty Affairs, Carleton University
Select Communications
July 7, 2016 – Carleton News Release - Carleton Students Receive Courage to Think Defender Award on Behalf of Detained Egyptians

April 25, 2016 – Carleton News Release - Spotlight on Carleton’s first Scholar at Risk

March 22, 2016 – Carleton Annual Call for Donations - Contribute to the Scholars at Risk Campaign

December 14, 2015 – Carleton News Release - Scholars at Risk Program Honoured in House of Commons


November 23, 2015 – Carleton Event (Broadcast on CBC) - Carleton Presents Scholars at Risk: Challenges of Human Rights Defenders with CBC All in a Day Host Alan Neal

Fall 2015 – Carleton University Magazine (J.-L. Mauchner, C. Rourke, A. Yeboah) – Scholar at Risk

August 19, 2015 – Carleton News Release - Carleton and uOttawa welcome Hossein Raeesi as part of the Scholars at Risk Network

March 25, 2015 – University Affairs (N. Samson) - Scholars-at-risk program comes to Carleton and U of Ottawa

March 5, 2015 – Carleton News Release (Broadcast on CBC – Ottawa Morning) - Prof. Adrian Speaks About SAR Network on CBC

March 5 2015 – Charlatan (T. Blewett) - Scholars At Risk launches at Carleton with panel event

For More Information
• Carleton Scholars at Risk website
• Carleton Students for Scholars at Risk page
• uOttawa’s Scholar at Risk program website
• Scholars at Risk Network from New York University