

SCHOLARS AT RISK

ANNUAL REPORT | 2017—2018

DOING OUR PART AS MEMBERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

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June 2018

Opening remarks

Message from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)



Jerry Tomberlin

Carleton University hosted its first at-risk scholar in 2014. This year, we are welcoming our fourth scholar with support from the Scholars at Risk Network and Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF). Coming from Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Yemen, our scholars have become part of the fabric of our university and valued contributors to the Department of Law and Legal Studies; the School of Linguistics and Language Studies; the School of Journalism and Communication; the Institute of Political Economy; and the Department of Physics. Not only have they contributed to teaching and research in their academic units, they have become part of our community by engaging with students, staff, faculty, alumni and donors through presentations, panel discussions and other collaborations.

On behalf of our scholars and the Carleton community, thank you for supporting academic freedom and your generous welcome to these scholars. Carleton is committed to this important program as part of our larger academic mission to promote creative and critical inquiry and to enhance our capacity to have a positive influence locally and internationally.

Message from the Carleton University Scholars at Risk committee Chair



Melanie Adrian, Law and
Legal Studies

In the fall of 2015, a student walked into my office and asked tentatively, "Do you know Mr. Raeesi?" "Yes, I do," I replied, "He is a human rights lawyer and scholar from Iran - and our first scholar at risk here at Carleton. Is he your professor?" I asked. "Yes!" she said with enthusiasm and began to recount how much the class was changing her perspectives on human rights law and the lived realities of minority communities in the socio-political world of the law. As a faculty member in law, this made my heart sing. "Most of all," she continued, "I was shocked that studying and practicing human rights law could be dangerous in some parts of the world." Learning about human rights from a scholar whose life had been threatened gave her a deep appreciation for education, freedom and democracy. As Chair of Carleton's Scholars at Risk committee, I was delighted.

This interaction epitomizes the value that the Scholars at Risk initiative has on our campus. Scholars bring knowledge, ideas and experiences that broaden, deepen and challenge our status quo. In this, they continuously reaffirm what lies at the core of our mission as educators. I am pleased to say that Carleton's community has taken this on enthusiastically and passionately.

Message from the External Relations Chair, Carleton University Academic Staff Association



Angelo Mingarelli,
Mathematics and Statistics

My personal interest in Scholars at Risk dates back to my years as a graduate student more than 40 years ago. At that time, there was growing concern for academics who had become prisoners of conscience, jailed or fired for their beliefs or actions against an oppressive government. I signed many, many petitions and continued to do so throughout my years as a young faculty member at the University of Ottawa and later at Carleton.

One might wonder how such letters of protest or concern can possibly make a difference. However, each had its own impact, sometimes in mysterious ways. In 2005, I attended a conference at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and, while I was chatting with colleagues, a bus pulled up with a cohort of conference participants. One of them approached my group and introduced himself. When I said my name, he stopped, looked me in the eye and said, "From Ottawa?" I said, "Yes," unable to recall where we might have met before. He let go of my hand, gave me the biggest hug you could

imagine and said, "Your letter got me out!" In 1986, I had written a letter to his government asking for his release from prison. He was let go and carried my name with him wherever he went.

It's worth it; please help us help others at risk.

A message from the Co-Presidents of Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk



Danny Albert, fourth-year student in Public Affairs and Policy Management (Human Rights)
Sam Turgeon-Brabazon, fourth-year student in Public Affairs and Policy Management (Human Rights)

As academics, there are few things more moving than speaking with students and scholars alike who are being persecuted for their academic work. These conversations spark empathy and humility and ignite motivation to challenge academic oppression.

It was an immense privilege for us to represent Carleton at the Scholars at Risk Global Congress in Berlin this year. This congress provided us with the incredible opportunity to network with like-minded scholars from around the world with the goal of learning how we can better safeguard academic freedom as members of the international academic community.

We are very much looking forward to using the activity-based skills, inspiration and international connections we acquired from this congress in our community. It is our goal to use this knowledge in our upcoming initiatives, so we can optimize awareness of Scholars at Risk among the student body on campus.

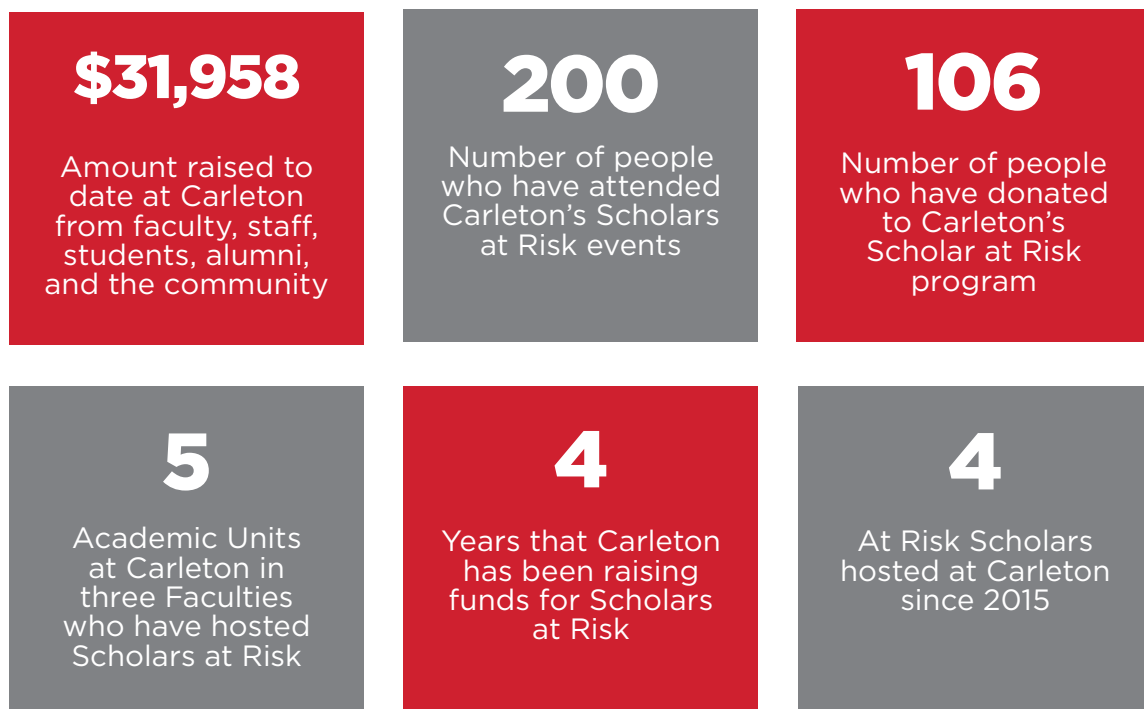
Scholars at Risk—At a glance

In the World



Illustration courtesy of: Scholars at Risk Network-Summary
Report on activities 2016-2017

At Carleton



In Canada



- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Carleton University | 9. St. Mary's University | 17. University of Toronto |
| 2. Centennial College | 10. Trent University | 18. University of Victoria |
| 3. George Brown College | 11. University of Alberta | 19. University of Windsor |
| 4. McGill University | 12. University of British Columbia | 20. University of Winnipeg |
| 5. McMaster University | 13. University of Guelph | 21. Western University |
| 6. Memorial University of Newfoundland | 14. University of Lethbridge | 22. Vancouver Island University |
| 7. Queen's University | 15. University of Ottawa | 23. York University |
| 8. Simon Fraser University | 16. Université du Québec à Montréal | |

The Scholars at Risk Canada Chapter was formally launched in 2012. By 2016, there were seven member universities in Canada which has grown to 23 member universities today.

Carleton University's Scholars at Risk committee update

Carleton and the University of Ottawa joined the Scholars at Risk Network in 2014, and, worked to co-host an at-risk scholar in 2015-16. After a successful first year, both programs have grown, and our universities are now hosting scholars independently. Over the past four years, Carleton's Scholars at Risk committee has been able to have a significant impact on the local and international academic community. This would not have been possible without the help and support of the Carleton community.

Hosting Scholars

In 2017-18, we hosted two at-risk scholars. Carleton welcomes scholars through three main pathways, including: providing one to two-year appointments recommended by the Scholars at Risk committee; offering financial support (in the form of a travel/research grant) for visiting professors hired through an academic unit; and inviting honorary ranks or guest lecturers as recommended by an academic unit.

Financial Support

In 2017-18, our Carleton Scholars at Risk committee committed to five goals:

1. Increasing the annual salary for our at-risk scholars;
2. Increasing the number of scholars from one to two per year;
3. Providing opportunities and incentives for academic units to hire scholars at risk through other means (such as visiting appointments);
4. Acknowledging all sources of financial support in our budget; and
5. Minimizing reliance on informal revenues.

Our current budget scheme is a three-year rolling budget updated annually. Our revenues include support from the Scholars Rescue Fund program, the Provost, Faculty Deans, community donations, and the Carleton University Academic Staff Association. Our expenses include scholar salaries, research grants, student salaries, events, conferences and membership fees. Our fundraising goal for 2017-18 was \$7,500. Over the year, we raised almost \$7,000. We have set next year's goal at an ambitious \$10,000 and we have many exciting plans to engage with faculty, staff, students and the community.

Key Accomplishments

In 2017-18, we:

- Welcomed two at-risk scholars;
- Approved terms of reference for our Carleton Scholars at Risk committee;
- Sent a delegation of four Carleton representatives to the Scholars at Risk Global Congress in Berlin;
- Developed a three-year rolling budget;
- Received close to \$7,000 in fundraising;
- Obtained approval for a second travel/research grant for at-risk scholars from the Carleton University Academic Staff Association; and
- Joined key parliamentarians to raise awareness for Scholars at Risk at Parliament Hill on Human Rights Day in December.

Looking Forward

In 2018-19, we will:

- Welcome two at-risk scholars;
- Work towards an ambitious \$10,000 fundraising goal; and
- Hire student interns to support the work of the Carleton Scholars at Risk committee and the national program.

Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk Update

Remarks from the Incoming Co-Presidents



Jeffrey Marchuk, fourth-year student in Law
Rachel Snow, fourth-year student in Public Affairs and
Policy Management (Human Rights)

We often take the rights we have as students in Canada for granted. These include rights like: the opportunity to pursue education in the domain of our own choosing; the ability to publish our findings without censorship; and freely expressing our own ideas even when they stand in opposition to the status quo. Since we hold these rights as Canadian students, we believe we are the ones who must speak out in defence of those academics who are unable to experience academic freedom. We believe this is part of our role as members of the international academic community.

We believe at-risk scholars represent a wealth of knowledge for students. That is why we, as a student group, are committed to providing the at-risk scholars hosted at Carleton with a platform to share their experiences with the

university's student body. Through these scholars, students have the unique opportunity to gain a deeper perspective into academic-freedom and international human rights. At the same time, these scholars can feel validated in knowing that they are listened to and that their experiences are educating the students of today and the scholars of tomorrow. We hope that you will join us on this journey.

Evening discussion on academic freedom and being an at-risk scholar

In December 2017, Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk organized an evening panel discussion highlighting one of Carleton's at-risk scholars. Endorsed by the Provost, this event brought together students, staff, faculty and members of local media sources for an intimate discussion. The scholar graciously shared her experiences and shed light on what it means to be an at-risk scholar.

Fundraising initiatives

Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk organized multiple successful fundraising initiatives this year, including a chili fundraiser held in the winter and a hot dog sale in the spring. Along with raising funds for upcoming initiatives, the events raised awareness of Scholars at Risk and established a mailing list to keep students informed about the group's activities.

Keep in touch

Follow the **Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk** page on Facebook for more information.

Our scholars

Current Scholars



2018-19

PROFESSOR MUSTAFA BAHRAN, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

In 2015, the war in Yemen forced my family to flee to Saudi Arabia. Thanks to a sponsorship by the International Institute of Education Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF), my family and I were able to move to the United States, so I could work as a visiting professor in the University of Oklahoma's Department of Physics and Astronomy. Upon finishing my assignment, I moved to Ottawa to be with my family. With the help of the IIE-SRF, Carleton agreed to host me as a visiting professor in the Department of Physics; the IIE-SRF has had a positive impact on me as a scholar at risk.

In June, my wife and I visited the Carleton campus for the first time. Immediately upon arriving, we were taken aback by the beauty of the environment surrounding the campus, particularly the riverside. The first thing we noticed was the friendly and helpful people on campus. We were surprised that every time we would ask someone for directions,

they would walk us to our destination while smiling and wishing us well; this made us feel immensely welcome. Indeed, there is something unique about the level of kindness displayed here in Ottawa, specifically at Carleton. It has left a positive impression on us.



2017-19

PROFESSOR RAHIM SURKHI, SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE STUDIES

For me, coming to Carleton means enjoying academic freedom with access to scientific resources, conferences and meetings. This is especially true after living more than a decade of my life in a state of fear, anxiety and instability in Iraqi Kurdistan, where I was deprived of engaging in any academic events, conferences or meeting outside the region. I was not even able to visit my family and homeland - Rojhelat (Kurdistan of Iran). Being at Carleton is a valuable and unimaginable opportunity.

This incredible opportunity was a product of joint action taken by both the International Institute for Education and Scholar Rescue Fund and the Scholars at Risk network who saved my life in the true

sense of the word. Carleton's School of Linguistics and Language Studies and the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute at the University of Ottawa hosted and helped me to immerse myself into academic life through the course I taught on Kurdish language.

Coming to Canada was like reaching a safe shore after surviving a stormy sea, which gave me a feeling of stability, peace and appreciation.

Former Scholars



2017-18

PROFESSOR SIMTEN COSAR, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

I came to Carleton as a visiting professor in the Institute of Political Economy in the fall of 2017. I had applied to the post after returning to my home country from a relatively long sabbatical first in the United States and then in Canada at Carleton in 2017. I was driven to undertake another visiting position abroad as it was increasingly difficult to continue with my usual rhythm of teaching and research in my home country due to the ever-worsening suppression of academic freedom. I was included within the scope of Carleton-SAR in the meantime, where members of the committee extended their support generously.

My first official day at Carleton was not my first day on campus. I had the pleasure of being a presenter and visiting professor on campus before. However, this time was different. The clearest feeling that I had was related to the fact of uncertainty. I was already tired of the negative effects of living with immediate uncertainty for some time; so, my first days on the campus were marked with finding a pattern to come to terms with the uncertainty that pervades the lives of most of the critical academics in my home country. Carleton has always had a symbolic importance for my academic life. Many of my students completed their graduate studies and Ph.Ds. from Carleton. In my collegial encounters, I could sense a tendency toward a constructive critical approach that is not necessarily restricted to the academic work, but that extends to everyday relations and I did not feel isolated. This is even more so with my colleagues at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology where I currently hold an adjunct position.



2015-2016

PROFESSOR HOSSEIN RAEESI, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES

I joined the Scholars at Risk network after being persecuted in my home country of Iran for being a human rights lawyer working with women and children. It was through this network that I was introduced to Carleton.

When I first arrived at the university, I was taken aback by the friendliness of students, staff and professors, notably the Provost who showed me constant support during my time at Carleton. Since completing my year of visiting professorship at Carleton, I have begun working with an international NGO on Improving

Juvenile Justice Systems in the Middle East and I continue to hold an adjunct appointment in the Department of Law and Legal Studies. This year, I am teaching another course at Carleton University on Human Rights and the Islamic Legal System.

Scholars at Risk Network Global Congress 2018



April 2018, SAR Global Congress

Berlin, Germany

In April 2018, Carleton's Scholars at Risk committee sent a four-person delegation to attend the Scholars at Risk Global Congress in Berlin, Germany. This delegation included Scholars at Risk committee chair Professor Melanie Adrian, Scholars at Risk committee member Norah Vollmer and co-presidents of Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk Sam Turgeon-Brabazon and Danny Albert.

The congress brought together students, academics, industry leaders and at-risk scholars from around the world to discuss the importance of academic freedom. Throughout the conference, Carleton's delegation had the opportunity to attend informative workshops – including “Creating Opportunities and Managing Expectations: Synergies between Academic Hosts and Administrations”, the “Student Expression Workshop” organized by the Norwegian Students’ and Academics’ International Assistance Fund as well as various keynotes from prominent academics including Dr. Judith Butler, a prominent scholar specializing in gender politics and Dr. Susanne Baer LL.M, a judge at the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany.

543

Number of participants in the congress

109

Number of at-risk scholars who attended the congress

71

Number of countries represented at the congress

6

Academic workshops offered at the congress

4

Academic keynotes offered at the congress

2

Speakers elected as fellows to the British Academy

1

Address from one of Germany's Supreme Court Justices

Scholars at Risk - Canada chapter meeting update

Fourteen member universities of the national chapter met on April 23, 2018 during the Berlin Congress, including representatives from Carleton University. At the organization's meeting, members discussed successes over the past two years and goals for the next two years. The national steering committee was re-elected under the Chairship of Melanie Adrian, Carleton University, for another two-year term. On April 26, 2018, the members of the SAR Canada chapter were honoured to attend a dinner at the Canadian Embassy with the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Ambassador to Germany and Special Envoy to the European Union and Europe.

Scholars at Risk Canada is an umbrella organization that advances and facilitates the values, aims and activities of the Scholars at Risk network in Canadian universities by:

- Helping to prepare and carry out joint activities among its members,
- Supporting the efforts of the International Secretariat to encourage new academic institutions to join the Scholars at Risk Network,
- Developing relations with external partners who support the values and aims of the Scholars at Risk network, and
- Encouraging the work of student chapters of the Scholars at Risk network.

Over the past two years, the chapter has:

- Seen a 300%+ increase in membership from 2016 (seven member universities) to 2018 (23 member universities);
- Hosted two conference days organized in Canada's Parliament and sponsored by the Liberal Party, Conservative Party and New Democratic Party;
- Represented the Scholars at Risk network on seven panels/conferences;
- Established a communications infrastructure with member universities and the rest of the international network; and
- Created a pro-bono lawyer immigration roster.



April 2018, SAR Canada meeting



April 2018, SAR Global Congress

How to get involved

Support

You can donate to Carleton University's Scholars at Risk initiative online at **futurefunder.carleton.ca** where you have the option of making a one-time donation or a monthly pledge. All donations have a tangible impact on the lives of SAR scholars in our community. Thank you!

Stay connected

Join our mailing list by contacting **ScholarsatRisk@carleton.ca**

Resources

Carleton's Scholar at Risk committee
carleton.ca/provost/scholars-at-risk

Provost's Office
carleton.ca/provost

Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk
facebook.com/CarletonUSAR

Scholars at Risk network
scholarsatrisk.org

Scholar Rescue Fund
scholarrescuefund.org

2018-19 Carleton University Scholars at Risk Committee

Professor Melanie Adrian (Chair), Law and Legal Studies
Ariq Alam, Purchasing Services
Professor Mustafa Bahran, Physics
Patti Harper, MacOdrum Library
Professor Andrew Johnston, History
Jaymie Koroluk, Office of the Associate Vice-President (Teaching and Learning)
Jeffrey Marchuk, Carleton Students for Scholars at Risk
Professor Angelo Mingarelli, Mathematics and Statistics
John Nelson, Business
Émilie Ovenden, Student Intern
Rachel Snow, Carleton Students for Scholars at Risk
Professor Rahim Surkhi, Linguistics and Language Studies
Noemie Tangelo, Student Intern
Jane van den Dries, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Norah Vollmer, Faculty Affairs

SCHOLARS **AT RISK**

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