



Scholars at Risk Summit: Freedom to Think

Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre,
355 Cooper Street, Ottawa, ON.

**OPENING NIGHT
EVENT**

November 20th, 2023
7PM to 9PM

**FREEDOM TO THINK
CONFERENCE**

November 21st, 2023
8AM to 5PM

Attacks on academic freedom and higher education are frequent and pervasive - with wide-ranging—at times deadly—consequences for scholars and students. No country is immune.

This summit will examine the full scope of global threats to academic freedom and their consequences, especially in terms of forced scholar migration, and will explore how best to defend academic freedom and to support scholars forced to flee their homelands.

Please join us for a series of events including an opening night event with a keynote and performances by talented local artists.

Carleton
University



NOVEMBER 20

Opening night 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

- Opening Remarks: Pauline Rankin, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Carleton University
- Keynote speaker: Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Laureate
- Presentations

TAWAKKOL KARMAN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Nobel Laureate (2011)

Tawakkol Karman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, in recognition for her non-violent struggle for democracy and her advocacy for women's rights in Yemen.

Karman has been imprisoned on a number of occasions for her pro-democracy, pro-human rights protests. Amongst Yemen's Youth movement, she is known as "mother of the revolution", "the iron woman", and the Lady of the Arab Spring.

She is a human rights activist, journalist, politician, the Founder of Women Journalists Without Chains, Tawakkol Karman Foundation and Peaceful Youth Revolution Council.

TIME Magazine described her as a 'Torchbearer of the Arab Spring' and named her both one of the 100 most influential women defining the last century and one of the Most Rebellious Women in History.

She was member of the High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

She is now board member of the Facebook oversight board, and Nobel Women's Initiative.

She holds a master's degree in global security from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.



NOVEMBER 21

Morning session

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

- Registration - coffee provided

Opening session

8:30 AM - 8:55 AM

Welcoming remarks

- Carleton University Scholars at Risk Chair (5 minutes)
- Scholars at Risk Canada Chair (5 minutes)
- Opening address: Pauline Rankin, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) (15 minutes)

Session One: Academic Insights on Ukraine, Russia + General.

Chair: Aaron Doyle, Carleton University.

9:00 AM - 10:10 AM

Presentation of academic papers on:

Ukraine and Russia

- Sonya Smyslova, University of Cambridge - *Education in Exile as a Hope-making Practice: The Case of Russian Higher Education Initiatives After 2022.*
- Oleksandra Shtepenko + Anna Skubaczewska-Pniewska, Nicolaus Copernicus University - *Intellectual Sisterhood as a Community for the Rescue of Women Humanitarian (Example of Ukraine and Poland).*
- Dmitry Dubrovsky, Charles University - *Ukrainian War, Academic Responsibility, and Academic Freedom.*
- Serdar M. Değirmencioğlu, Goethe University Frankfurt A.M. - *Beyond Beneficiaries and Charity.*

General topics

- Viktoria Boiko, Hertie School - *Safeguarding Democratic Regimes: Addressing Cyber and Disinformation Threats through Academic and Private Sector Collaboration.*
- Tyler Correia, Independent - *Some Lessons from the History of Institutionalized Refuge for Persecuted Intellectuals.*

Each panelist will have a 10 minute presentation + 10 minutes Q&A



Session Two: SAR and Academic Freedom in Afghanistan.

Chair: Christine Duff, Carleton University.

10:15 AM - 11:05 AM

Panel discussion

- Elham Gharji, Carleton University - *Global Democratic Retreat Amid Rising Authoritarianism: The Impact on Freedom of Thought.*
- Murtaza Mohiqi + Marzie Moheqqi, University of South-Eastern Norway - *Enhancing Empowerment: Scholar at Risk Programs' Impact on Gender Equality and Minority Advancement.*
- Sayeed Ebrahim Darwishean + Amrullah Taqwa, Kabul University - *The Study of Never-Stated Experiences of Kabul University Cadres in Permanent Migration After Collapse of the Republic State in Afghanistan.*

Each panelist will have a 10 minute presentation + 10 minutes Q&A

MORNING BREAK

11:05 AM - 11:20 AM

Coffee provided



Session three: Academic Freedom Around the World.

Chair Brian Evans, SAR.

11:20 AM - 01:30 PM

Presentation of Academic Papers:

- Alemayehu Fentaw Weldemariam, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Center for Constitutional Democracy
- Eve Darian-Smith, University of California, Irvine - Reframing Academic Freedom as Social Justice. - *The Scholar-at-Risk: Transnational Solidarity Supporting Public Intellectuals in Peril.*
- Mansour Al-Maswari, Columbia Global Center for Middle Eastern Studies-Amman, Columbia University - *Academic Life During Yemen's Wartime: Humiliation, Weaponization and Displacement.*
- Mewael Berhane Menegesha, Aksum University - *Issue of Diversity in the current Ethiopian Education and Training policy.*
- Amjad Hussain, National University of Modern Languages-Peshawar Campus - *The Cost of Freedom to Think: The Case of Pakistani Universities.*
- Julie Mazzei, Kent State University - *Violence Against Iraq's Academics: Consequences of the U.S. Occupation.*
- Encieh Erfani, International Community of Iranian Academics - *Voices Unsilenced: Navigating Academic Suppression in Iran.*
- Carl Marc Ramota, University of the Philippines - *Universities Fight Back: The State of Academic Freedom in the Philippines under the Duterte and Marcos Jr. regimes.*
- Cevat Celep, Girne American University Nord Cyprus - *The Effect of Social Culture on the Development of University Autonomy and Scientific Responsibility Awareness.*
- Serdar M. Değirmencioğlu, Goethe University Frankfurt A.M. - *Beyond Beneficiaries and Charity.*

10 minutes presentation + 25 minutes Q&A
5 minutes health break mid-session



LUNCH
1:30 PM - 2:10 PM
Lunch provided

Session Four: Advocacy and Academics.

Chair: Andrew Johnston, Carleton University.

2:15 PM - 3:05 PM

Panel discussion

- Jenny Peterson + William J. Shelling II, University of British Columbia - *Student Led Advocacy and the "Scholars in Prison" Project: Experiential Learning and Critical Knowledge(s) in International Relations.*
- Mirja Trilsch, Université du Québec à Montréal - *Developing Agency through Student Advocacy within the Scholars in Prison Project.*
- Bruna Santos & Anissa Gandhi, Carleton University - *Learning Advocacy in the Classroom: The Impacts and Reflections of a Year-long Scholars at Risk Seminar at Carleton University.*
- Melanie Adrian, Carleton University - *Critical Reflections on Experiential Advocacy.*

10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A

Session Five: Government, Civil Society, and Media.

Chair: Allan Thompson, Carleton University.

3:10 PM - 3:50 PM

Panel discussion

- Scott Harris - Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada.
- Sonia Verma, Global News Editor-In-Chief.
- Ketty Nivyabandi - Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada.

10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A



AFTERNOON BREAK

3:50 PM - 4:05 PM

Coffee provided

Session Six: International Response and Summative Discussion.

Chair: Mustafa Bahran, Carleton University.

4:05 PM - 5:05 PM

Panel discussion

- Amy Kapit - Senior Program Officer for Advocacy - Scholars at Risk Preserving the Freedom to Think: Understanding Attacks on Higher Education and Supporting Scholars and Students.
- Amina Khan - Program Officer, Scholar Rescue Fund - Freedom to Think.
- Mimi Kirk - MESA Global Academy - Displaced Scholars and the MESA Global Academy.
- Maike Didero - Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom - Funding Opportunities for Researchers at Risk: The Philipp Schwartz Initiative.
- Saja Al Zoubi, St. Mary's University, Halifax NS-Canada - *At Risk Scholars' Challenges and Potential Solutions: At-risk Scholars Initiative of the Global Young Academy ARSI-GYA.*

10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A

Closing Session

5:10 PM - 5:30 PM

- Keynote Closing Address - David Hornsby, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic) (15 minutes)
- Summit Declaration (5 minutes)

