

SCHOLARS AT RISK

ANNUAL REPORT | 2019—2020

DOING OUR PART TOGETHER, AS MEMBERS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

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2018 Scholars at Risk Mustafa Bahrn and Rahim Surkhi

Opening Remarks

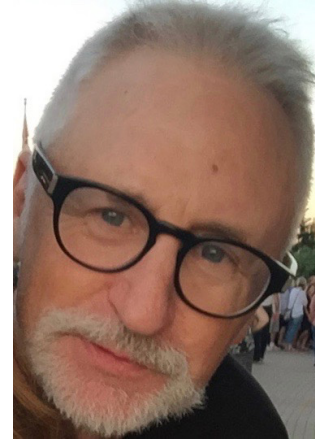
Message from the Carleton University Scholars at Risk Committee Co-Chairs



Andrew Johnston
Department of History



Christine Duff
Institute of African Studies



Aaron Doyle
Sociology & Anthropology

It's become a cliché to say that these are not normal times. But even without a global pandemic, thousands of scholars and teachers around the world are deprived of the normal intellectual security that many of us take for granted. These educators experience daily threats to their ability to conduct research, express their ideas, and even live securely. For twenty years, Scholars at Risk's international network has helped provide safe havens for over 1500 scholars. Carleton is proud to have been part of that network since 2014. This upcoming year we will host our seventh scholar since 2015. These individuals have all been extraordinary and courageous members of our community, mentors to students, and powerful advocates for intellectual freedom. They are reminders of the fragility of norms governing academic work, but also affirmations of the global community of thinkers and educators working to better the world.

Message from the Carleton University Scholars at Risk Committee Communications Coordinator



Julie Garlen,
Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies
(Childhood and Youth Studies)

As a new member of the Carleton University community in 2018, I was not only eager to become involved in university service, but interested in seeking out opportunities that truly make a difference. When I learned about Scholars at Risk, I knew I wanted to be involved. Protecting scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty and well-being is a cause worth supporting. I hope that this year's annual report will inspire others to support our cause and become involved.

Assisting endangered scholars requires considerable financial resources, so we rely on individual donations to supplement the institutional support we receive. We hope to expand our network of donors that we can increase the level of support and benefits we are able to offer our visiting scholars. If you'd like to know more about how you can contribute, please visit our Future Funder campaign at <https://futurefunder.carleton.ca>.

Message from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)



Jerry Tomberlin
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Carleton University hosted its first at-risk scholar in 2014. This year, we welcomed our sixth scholar with support from the Scholars at Risk Network and Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF). Coming from countries that include Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Yemen and Syria, 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; the Department of Physics; the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; and the Department of Biology. 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 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.

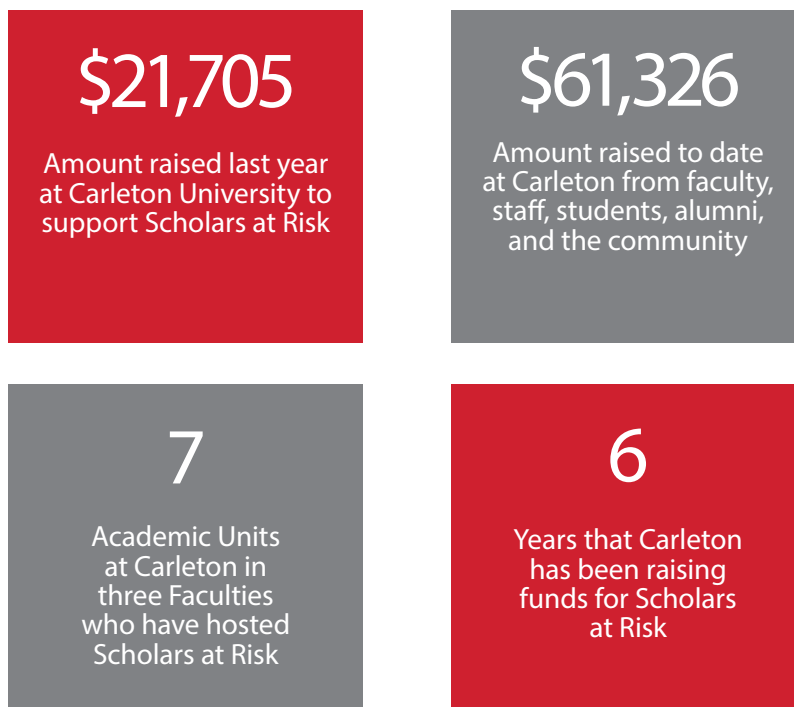
Scholars at Risk—At a glance

In the World



Information courtesy of: Scholars at Risk Network-Summary Report on activities 2018-2019

At Carleton



In Canada



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Carleton University | 8. Queen's University | 17. Université du Québec à Montréal |
| 2. Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) | 9. Simon Fraser University | 18. University of Toronto |
| 3. Centennial College | 10. St. Mary's University | 19. University of Victoria |
| 4. George Brown College | 11. Trent University | 20. University of Windsor |
| 5. McGill University | 12. University of Alberta | 21. University of Winnipeg |
| 6. McMaster University | 13. University of British Columbia | 22. Western University |
| 7. Memorial University of Newfoundland | 14. University of Guelph | 23. Vancouver Island University |
| | 15. University of Lethbridge | 24. York University |
| | 16. University of Ottawa | |

The Scholars at Risk Canada Chapter was formally launched in 2012. By 2016, there were seven member universities in Canada which has grown to 24 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 began to grow and each university began hosting scholars independently. Over the past six 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 2019-20, 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;
- inviting honorary ranks or guest lecturers as recommended by an academic unit.

This year, we also began developing a new initiative called the Carleton Global Scholars Program, which will provide at-risk scholars who continue to reside in their home countries with a university affiliation and access to university resources through MacOdrum Library.

Financial Support

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, the Carleton University Academic Staff Association, and the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF). Our expenses include scholar salaries, research grants, student salaries, events, conferences and membership fees. Our fundraising goal for 2019-20 was \$10,000. Over the year, we raised more than \$21,000, setting a new fundraising record for our organization. We are continuing to strive to exceed our goal of \$10,000 this year and we have many exciting plans to engage with faculty, staff, students and the community.

Key Accomplishments

In 2019-20, we:

- Welcomed one new at-risk scholar and renewed another scholar into a second year;
- Developed the Carleton Global Scholars Program initiative;
- Received more than \$21,000 in fundraising;
- Hosted the first annual student advocacy summit;
- Implemented our new scholar care program to assist scholars with relocation;
- Developed online instructional resources to help scholars find academic jobs in Canada.

Looking Forward

In 2020-21, we will:

- Welcome one to two new at-risk scholars;
- Work towards achieving our \$10,000 fundraising goal;
- Implement the Carleton Global Scholars Program;
- Develop enhanced strategies to ensure scholars' privacy and security;
- Support the rebuilding of Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk;
- Expand communications strategies to increase awareness about SAR.

2020-2021 Carleton University Scholars at Risk Committee*

Andrew Johnston, (Co-Chair), History
Christine Duff, (Co-Chair), Institute of African Studies
Aaron Doyle, (Co-Chair), Sociology and Anthropology
Mustafa Bahran, Physics
Julie Garlen, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies
Patti Harper, MacOdrum Library
Laura Madokoro, History
Angelo Mingarelli, Mathematics and Statistics
Norah Vollmer, Faculty Affairs
*Some members' names omitted for privacy.



A virtual meeting of SAR Committee Members,
Student Representative Fatima Hafid and Faculty
Affairs Co-op Student Cole Parkin.



About CUSFSAR - Who We Are: Mission and Goals

After three years of inactivity, the Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk (CUSFSAR) has returned to Carleton University with the hope that it continues past the duration of its current members' involvement. As the undergraduate student chapter of Scholars at Risk (SAR), CUSFSAR aims to create a space wherein students may engage with the complex challenges associated with the restriction of academic freedom. Respectively, we hope to facilitate a communal recognition of the duality of academic freedom in both facilitating the pursuit of critical scholarship and supporting scholars who are engaging in said critical scholarship.

As an association, CUSFSAR holds three central goals. First, we collectively strive to promote and amplify the values and objectives of SAR Carleton. We achieve this goal by raising funds to bolster SAR Carleton's various initiatives and mechanisms, which provide urgent support to scholars who face significant risks as a result of their scholarship. Second, CUSFSAR hopes to foster a collective realization of the significance of academic freedom in the production of critical knowledge and to raise the collective conscience of the harms associated with academic censorship on the transparency and growth of academia. Third, our club aims to continually engage in communal efforts towards various social advocacy campaigns involving social issues that limit academic freedom and involve threatened scholars.

Activities for the Academic Year

To facilitate the maintenance of such goals, CUSFSAR has worked tirelessly to produce a series of activities and events that both bring different perspectives together and appeal to a wide array of individuals - both within the academic setting and within the public sector. At the centre of each of our events remain two central themes: that of supporting and promoting SAR - whether this is through the facilitation and/or promotion of advocacy campaigns or fundraising; and an emphasis on the importance of academic freedom in the pursuit of critical knowledge in a free and just society.



The CUSFSAR Executive Team (via Zoom)

Thus far, our activities have been focused around our campaign for Cihan Erdal, a Ph.D. Candidate from Carleton University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. We will, however, discuss the said campaign in the latter portion of this section. In addition to the said campaign, we hope to host a Limited Online Merchandise Sale as well as a Virtual Silent Art Auction within the first few months of 2021. Both of these efforts will serve as a means for CUSFSAR to contribute to the financial aid SAR provides to scholars currently at risk or those recovering from a previous detainment or relocation. In addition to these activities, CUSFSAR will be supporting SAR in the facilitation of any events and/or campaigns the network hopes to host.

Vision Statement from Co-Presidents

As co-presidents of CUSFSAR, our collective vision since the reinstatement of this club has been for the engagement of the broader student body and the associated Ottawa community with CUSFSAR's and SAR's initiatives. Within this engagement is a centering of the notion of academic freedom, and how challenges to it by authoritarian political regimes or repressive institutions is an issue that ultimately affects us all. In facilitating this broader conversation, we hope that the actions of CUSFSAR, whether it be our fundraising events or advocacy campaigns, will promote a sense of cohesion by bringing together the collective Carleton undergraduate community with that of faculty, graduate students, and administrative faculty. As a result, we hope our efforts will maintain an environment wherein students are encouraged to think critically and challenge the world and its dominant structures that so many take for granted.



Hijaab Yahya, She/Her - Co-President



Felicity Hauwert, She/Her - Co-President



Saarah Rasheed, She/Her
VP, Marketing and Media



Fatima Hafid, She/Her
VP, Finance



Julia Bruno, She/Her
VP, Internal



Vegas Hodgins, He/Him
VP, External and Events



Candra Barber, She/Her
Director of General Membership



Nardin Maayteh, She/Her
General Member

CUSFSAR and the #FreeCihanErdal Campaign

What inspired us to take on this campaign?

As undergraduate students at Carleton University, we were compelled to take on this campaign as soon as we heard the word of Cihan's detention. Seeing as Cihan is a Ph.D. student at Carleton, we felt a sense of community in relation to him and felt it was our duty, as the student chapter of SAR at Carleton, to make a statement and proceed to action within our capacity.

How did we hear about Cihan's situation?

We first heard the word of Cihan Erdal's situation through the Ottawa SAR Committee Co-Chair Aaron Doyle. After being made aware of his arrest, alongside the 81 other detainees, including academics, activists, and politicians, we were referred to the statement put out by Carleton's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, condemning the actions of the Turkish government.

Our Response

Upon hearing about Cihan Erdal's wrongful detainment in Turkey, our principal objective was to facilitate more recognition of the issue among the Carleton student body and to gear attention towards the Call to Action petition, which was being circulated by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the time. As such, we developed a social media post which we shared on our Instagram and Facebook. This post received over 585 likes and around 800 shares on Instagram, which indicated the vast attention this issue had gained within the Carleton community. It was crucial for our team to build on the attention we had gained from the social media post to develop a more comprehensive campaign that would address the issue at hand.

The CUSFSAR executives met to develop a formal plan of action. The core purpose of our plan was to foster greater recognition of the issue within the Carleton and broader Ottawa community and establish relevant action items to which the individuals can contribute. As such, our team developed three concrete actions: conducting a #FreeCihanErdal social media campaign by hosting a Facebook Livestream, developing and disseminating an email ZAP tool, and magnifying the initiatives taken by those working on Cihan's case.

We recognize that Cihan is far from receiving justice. As such, CUSFSAR will continue to act in solidarity with Cihan's loved ones and with the SAR committee in relation to their actions. The path to freedom is a constant struggle; however, CUSFSAR is prepared for the road ahead and will not stay silent while a member of our Carleton community remains unjustly detained. As we move forward with our initiatives, we would like to thank the Ottawa SAR committee as well as the global SAR network and CPEP, for their ongoing support throughout our campaign and their help in both amplifying our voices and actions, as well as in their help in developing the tools necessary for action. We would also like to recognize Omer's ongoing strength and patience, as we await justice for Cihan Erdal.



Erdal is a queer youth activist who is but one of the 81 academics, activists and politicians that have been detained in Turkey for unknown reasons.

Carleton Sociology PhD candidate **Cihan Erdal** was wrongfully detained by the Turkish government in a politically motivated detention on Friday.

**OUR WORK NOW
IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER**

We must demand his urgent release and bring attention to this issue.

**TO LEARN MORE AND HELP
PLEASE CLICK THE LINK IN OUR BIO
@cusfsar**

Scholar Perspectives

Remarks from Carleton Scholars

2019-2020

DR. DORIS KAKURU, SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY



Scholars at Risk provides support to a wide range of scholars from many different social and cultural contexts. Some scholars face such grave dangers to their safety that they cannot risk publicly acknowledging their status. Here, one such scholar, now an Associate Professor in the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria, shares how vital SAR support was for her in escaping persecution:

My research on a subject prohibited by the government in my home country forced my family and me into exile. We left everything behind and found ourselves homeless in Canada. Without the support of the Scholars at Risk Program and the Scholar Rescue Fund, which gave me a placement as a visiting professor at Carleton University, my family and I would still be like other homeless refugees in Ottawa. I'm forever grateful for having a safe place to live and an opportunity to continue pursuing my passion for university teaching and research.

2018-20

DR. MUSTAFA BAHRAN, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS



In 2015, the war in Yemen forced me and my family to flee to Saudi Arabia. In January 2017, I joined Oklahoma University as a visiting professor supported by the IIE-SRF and Oklahoma University. In June 2018, I joined Carleton university department of Physics as a visiting professor supported by the IIE-SRF and SAR Carleton. When 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 that continues to increase as time goes on.

I have been at Carleton for more than two years now and I have been able to contribute to the great academic and research work that Carleton university entails. I have taught University Physics for more than 600 students so far and helped other hundreds within the physics drop-in center as well. I have embarked on a new research project supported via grant from Carleton concentrating on one of the current and topical issues in physics education research; namely the role of physics labs teaching component in reinforcing physics concepts introduced in class lectures. I have been engaged with Carleton community as well as Ottawa at large speaking about the cause of scholars at risk. I have been also engaged in advocating to stop the war in Yemen within my Carleton community, Canada and the world at large. In summary, I have been fortunate to join Carleton university and work with the excellent academics, researchers, students and staff.

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!

Resources



Scholars at Risk

Carleton Scholars at Risk

<https://carleton.ca/scholars-at-risk/>

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

 protection  advocacy  learning

20 YEARS

Scholars at Risk network

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>

 Scholar
Rescue Fund

Scholar Rescue Fund

www.scholarrescuefund.org

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