

SCHOLARS AT RISK

ANNUAL REPORT | 2020—2021

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



Carleton
University

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2018 Scholars at Risk Mustafa Bahran 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 1600 scholars. Carleton is proud to have been part of that network since 2014. This year, we will welcome our eleventh scholar since 2014, and thanks in part to the university generously extending their funding commitment to the SAR program due to the crisis in Afghanistan, we hope to welcome further scholars soon. The scholars we hosted 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)

When I joined the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University 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. This is the third annual report that I have produced for our committee, and I hope that it will serve the important purpose of informing others about the important work we are doing, and inspiring those in the Carleton community and beyond to support our cause.

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 eleventh scholar with support from the Scholars at Risk Network and Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF). Both on campus and virtually, our scholars have become part of the fabric of our university and valued contributors to several of our academic units in all five of Carleton's faculties. 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 CUASA President 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.

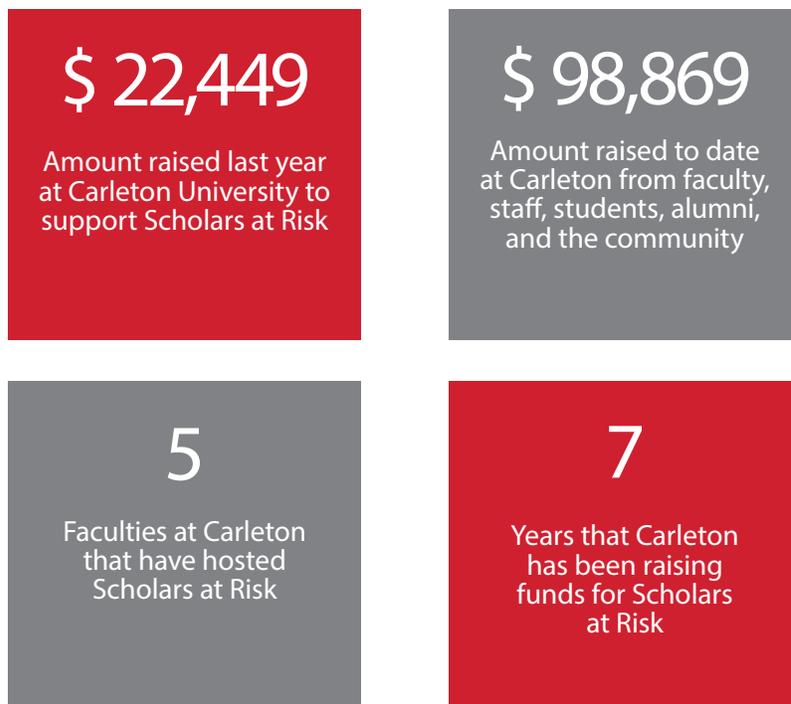
Scholars at Risk—At a glance

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 Windsor |
| 4. George Brown College | 11. Trent University | 20. University of Winnipeg |
| 5. McGill University | 12. University of Alberta | 21. University of British Columbia |
| 6. McMaster University | 13. University of Guelph | 22. Western University |
| 7. Memorial University of Newfoundland | 14. University of Lethbridge | 23. Vancouver Island University |
| | 15. University of Ottawa | 24. York University |

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 seven 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 2020-21, we hosted three 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.
- making appointments to support a remote Scholars At-Risk 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 2020-21 was \$10,000. Over the year, we raised more than \$22,000, setting a new fundraising record for our organization. We strive to exceed our goal of \$10,000 this year as we have many exciting plans to engage with faculty, staff, students and the community.

Key Accomplishments

In 2020-21, we:

- Welcomed one new at-risk scholar and renewed another scholar into a second year;
- Provided one grant for a visiting scholar;
- Received more than \$22,000 in fundraising;
- Finalized the remote scholar initiative and welcomed four new appointees;

Looking Forward

In 2021-22, we will:

- Welcome one to two new at-risk scholars;
- Work towards achieving our \$10,000 fundraising goal;
- Continue to implement the remote Scholars-at-Risk Program;
- Repurpose funds to respond to the situation in Afghanistan by hosting one additional scholar and seeking out other opportunities to provide support.

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
Luciara Nardon, Sprott School of Business
Norah Vollmer, Faculty Affairs
Nicholas Saucier, Campus Safety Services
Tony Lackey, Finance and Administration
Hijaab Yahya, CUSFSAR
Felicity Hauwert, CUSFSAR

*Some committee members' names omitted to protect privacy.



A virtual meeting of SAR Committee Members,
November 2021

Carleton SAR Launches A New Program to Support Remote Scholars

Rationale

Throughout the world, thousands of academics face serious threats to their lives and livelihoods, based on their research. Many are punitively dismissed from their institutions, as well as persecuted by hostile governments. Without academic affiliations, these scholars are unable to continue their research, submit papers, and have the expected connection with peers. To address this issue, SAR Carleton create a remote scholars program in conjunction with the established Scholars at Risk Program. This initiative provides Remote Scholars at Risk with a university affiliation and access to university resources through MacOdrum Library. While this proposal barely addresses the large number of scholars who have been deprived of academic freedom and connections in their home countries, it is hoped that Carleton University can make a difference in this regard and serve as model for other institutions.

Proposal

Each year, Carleton University will provide support to as many as five scholars who are in their home countries and have been deprived of academic freedom and connections. These designations would, for two years (on a renewable basis for up to five years), allow a scholar based in another country who has lost their institutional affiliations to:

- Be designated as an Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Research Professor according to established departmental and university practices.
- Have remote access to research databases via MacOdrum Library.
- Have a Carleton University email, allowing for the researcher to submit their work to journals with an institutional affiliation and a listing in Carleton University Directory.
- When appropriate or possible, have professional contacts with Carleton University faculty in the discipline (such as presenting virtually during a class session, discussing research with likeminded faculty and/or students, etc.). Academic Units, for instance, might be encouraged to appoint a faculty host.



“This program gives Carleton University the opportunity to expand its support for scholars across the globe,” says Laura Madokoro, one of the SAR members who spear-headed the initiative.

Impact

In 2016, Carleton University was one of 7 universities with a Scholars at Risk program. Today, in 2020, there are over 24 member universities across Canada. Roger Williams University (RWU) in Rhode Island was the first institution of higher learning to implement an initiative akin to the proposed remote Scholars at Risk Program. In its first year of operation, RWU staff report of tangible benefits to scholars in its Researcher in Exile Fellow Program. Thanks to the program, they have been able to access database resources and submit articles for publication. Scholars have been able to continue their research and publish their findings and RWU has been benefited by association – connected to scholars unable to leave their home countries who nevertheless desire to contribute to the academic community through virtual research and teaching.

The remote Scholars at Risk Program at Carleton University provides similar benefits: creating opportunities for Scholars at Risk to advance their research and make contributions to academic life at Carleton, and the intellectual community more broadly. The program builds on the established foundations of the Scholars at Risk Program and benefits from remote technologies to support continued research and knowledge-production.

Your donations help us make a difference!

Scholar Perspectives

Remarks from Carleton Scholars

FROM AN ANONYMOUS SCHOLAR

Life as a SAR fellow is always a mixed bag of emotions: a whole lot of gratitude, a degree of uncertainty, some excitement to find new possibilities, and occasional feelings of academic isolation. Even though it is an individual journey of transition between places, spaces and time – a placement, and its host institution can make a world of difference in a scholar’s life if it is well prepared, respectful and values the knowledge, expertise and skills the scholar offers in return. Carleton has been that institution to me: it has offered a full-time work environment even in the midst of a pandemic, embraced me with full respect and acceptance by giving me academic responsibilities, appreciation and encouragement to flourish through research and publications, through a well-structured system that looks after the well-being of a scholar – but most importantly, by NOT keeping me in isolation of an ‘Other’! I feel happy, motivated and valued as someone who contributes to my department, is connected to the institution and part of an effort to uphold academic freedom that the university believes in. Carleton has given me students I love to teach, colleagues that support me and an institution that I now belong to. Thank you, Carleton. I hope you continue to support many more scholars and activists in future.s.

FROM 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 three 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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