



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Scholars At Risk Summit: Freedom to Think**

Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre Monday

**November 20-Tuesday November 21, 2023**

The Scholars At Risk initiative at Carleton University, Ottawa (SAR Carleton), in cooperation with the Scholars at Risk Network (SAR Network), SAR United States, the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF), the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), and the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation is excited to organize the **Scholars At Risk Summit: Freedom to Think** this November 20-21, 2023 in downtown Ottawa.

### **Background for the Summit:**

SAR's *Free to Think 2022* Report stated: "Attacks on academic freedom and higher education are frequent, pervasive, and have wide ranging—at times deadly—consequences for scholars, students, and society at large. These attacks occur in closed societies, where the right to think and speak freely is routinely oppressed, and amid political and economic crises and armed conflict that put scholars and students in especially vulnerable situations. But they also occur in more open, democratic, and stable societies, leaving no country immune from their threat. State and non-state actors, including armed militant and extremist groups, police and military forces, government authorities, off-campus groups, and even members of higher education communities, among others, carry out these attacks, which often result in deaths, injuries, deprivations of liberty, and the upending of scholars' and students' academic careers". Many such academics are forced to leave their home countries.

This summit aims to provide a forum for better understanding the full scope of global threats to academic freedom, for documenting the consequences of these threats in terms of forced scholar migration, for proposing credible pathways to defend human rights norms related to intellectual independence and university autonomy, and for providing support for scholars forced to flee their homelands. We invite academic papers that address these and related issues, including, for example: indexing the state of global academic freedom; developing norms and policies for the protection of university independence; issues of diversity; the role of universities and institutions of higher education in defending democratic values; the lived experience of scholars who experience persecution and who are forced to migrate, how civil society organizations, governments, donors, and media in Canada and globally have responded to these urgent needs and can best support such scholars; and the work of groups such as Scholars At Risk, the Scholar Rescue Fund, the Middle East Studies Association, the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation, and the Coalition for At-Risk Academics in striving to meet these challenges. Scholars from a variety of disciplines, as well as other contributors from universities, governments, non-governmental organizations, and the wider community, are encouraged to join.

## **The Invitation:**

The organizing committee invites proposals for papers and panels for the summit. Paper abstracts should be no more than 250 words. Panel proposals should include the names of panel participants and a panel theme and may also include discussion of individual presentations within the panel. Abstracts and panel proposals are to be submitted to the organizing committee **by September 1, 2023**. We ask that submissions be made through the Summit's webpage listed at the bottom of this document.

## **The Organizing Committee:**

- Mustafa Bahrán, Chair (Carleton University)
- Rose Crossett (Carleton University)
- Aaron Doyle (Carleton University)
- Brian Evans (Senior Program Officer North America, SAR)
- Viviana Fernandez (Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa)
- Julie Garlen (Carleton University)
- Jenna Hobin (Carleton University)
- Rachel Jobson (Carleton University, Summit Administrator)
- Andrew Johnston (Carleton University)
- James King (Scholar Rescue Fund, US)
- Mimi Kirk (Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Global Academy, US)
- Natasha Nobell (University of British Columbia)
- Joanne Rumig (Carleton University)
- Allan Thompson (Carleton University)
- Mirja Trilsch (Université du Québec à Montréal)
- Norah Vollmer (Carleton University)
- Sarah Willcox (SAR United States)

## **The Summit Outcome:**

1. The summit conclusions will be reflected in a summative document to be authored by all participants, titled "The Carleton Declaration". This declaration will be widely disseminated and published worldwide.
2. The summit proceedings will also be published.

## **Summit Location:**

This Summit will take place at the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre (CDCC), Carleton University's Arts, Performance and Learning Centre in downtown Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. It will open with a cultural and artistic performance and welcome event on the evening of Monday, November 20th, followed by the full day summit on Tuesday, November 21st.

## **Contact and Submission Email:**

To submit, please complete the submission form on our website at: [https://carleton.ca/scholars\\_at-risk/scholars-at-risk-summit-free-to-think/](https://carleton.ca/scholars_at-risk/scholars-at-risk-summit-free-to-think/)

Please note that all content will be submitted via text boxes in the form, not through attachments.

Please address any questions or requests for further information to the Summit Administrator, Rachel Jobson, at: [SAREvent@carleton.ca](mailto:SAREvent@carleton.ca).