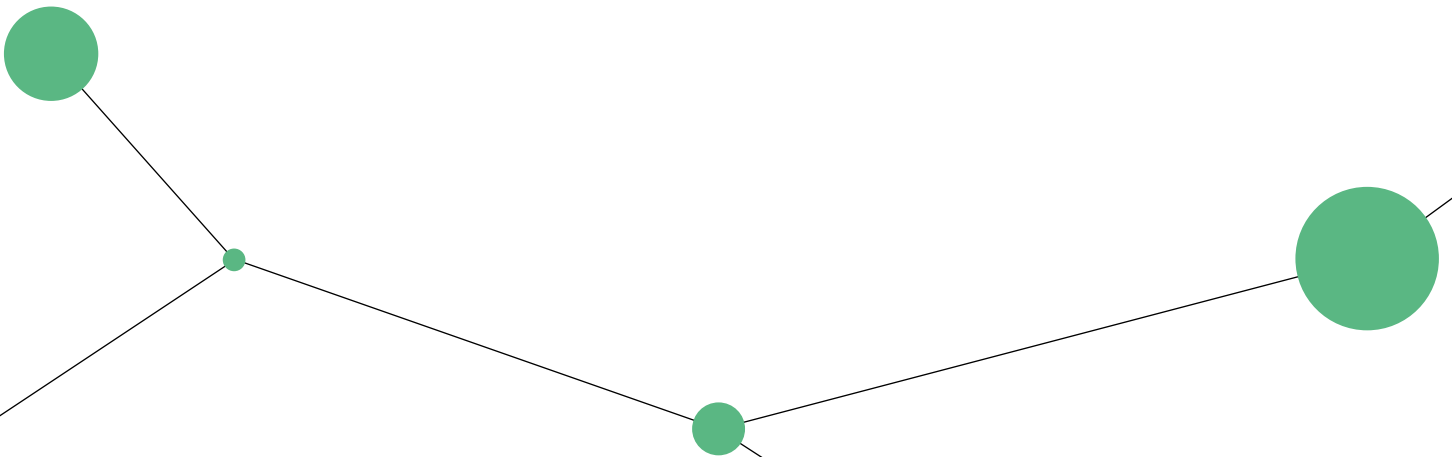


Programme

Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum

18–19 April 2024 | Berlin



Agenda

Convened by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative in cooperation with Scholars at Risk Europe and the Inspireurope Consortium, the 2024 Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum brings together more than 350 participants in Berlin and additional online attendees. The event has grown significantly in scope since its beginnings. This year, for the second time, it includes MSCA4Ukraine fellows, thereby attesting to an increasing European dimension of support for researchers at risk.

The forum offers networking opportunities for researchers at risk and all those supporting them, whether on a local, national or international level. Researchers, policymakers, administrators and other stakeholders will discuss the state of academic freedom in various regions of the world. Participants are invited to examine the demanding challenge of re-building sustainable perspectives for scholars who were forced into exile. A particular focus of the forum will be placed on mutual learning opportunities for at-risk scholars as well as the academic mentors and host organisations working to support them. Participants are invited to present perspectives on institutional, national, European and global initiatives to promote academic freedom and support individual scholars at risk.

Please note that this event is by invitation only and requires advance registration. The conference language will be English. Parts of the programme will be available online via online streaming (day 1) and through hybrid virtual rooms (day 2, track 3). The times indicated represent Central European Summer Time.

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Under the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has been granting funding to universities and research institutions in Germany to host researchers at risk for a period of two years since 2016. The host institutions receive funding that completely covers the costs of a research fellowship. Sponsorship can be extended by one year under a co-financing model. In addition, the host institution is granted an allowance of € 20,000 per fellowship. This financial support is complemented by the provision of a platform to connect host institutions, researchers at risk and other organisations active in this field. Its highlight is the annual Philipp Schwartz Forum. So far, 491 researchers from 26 countries have been supported through the Philipp Schwartz Initiative. In addition, 32 persons have been supported in special initiatives for Iranian and Afghan researchers.



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative is funded by:



Auswärtiges Amt

Additional funding is provided by:

GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG



STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

Buschmann-Simon-Treuhandstiftung

The Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope 2024 Forum is also supported by:

Inspireurope+
Supporting Researchers at Risk

MSCA 4 UKRAINE

Funded by
the European Union

Who was Philipp Schwartz?

The pathologist Philipp Schwartz became a professor of pathology at Goethe University Frankfurt in 1927. Being from a Jewish family, he was summarily dismissed from the university in 1933 when the National Socialists seized power. He fled to Switzerland where he founded the “Notgemeinschaft deutscher Wissenschaftler im Ausland” (Emergency Society of German Scholars Abroad) in the same year. Its aim was to find employment abroad for persecuted academics. The organisation interceded on behalf of several hundred refugee researchers. Most of them went to Turkey, where Kemal Atatürk was in the process of reforming the higher education system based on the Western European model. Schwartz personally negotiated with representatives of the Turkish government and immediately managed to secure places there for 30 researchers who had been dismissed from posts in Germany. The Emergency Society also cooperated with the Academic Assistance Council, the predecessor of the Council for At-Risk Academics. In 1934, Schwartz himself accepted a chair at the newly established Istanbul University, becoming director of the Institute of Pathology. After the Second World War, his desired return to Frankfurt University as a professor was denied him. He emigrated to the United States in the early 1950s and continued to work as a pathologist at Warren State Hospital in Pennsylvania, where he headed a geriatric research institute from 1967 onwards. Schwartz died in the United States in 1977.



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from abroad and from Germany. As an intermediary organisation for German foreign cultural and educational policy the Foundation promotes international cultural dialogue and academic exchange. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation wants to recruit the world’s best minds for a research stay in Germany as well as for its international network of outstanding researchers. In all our efforts we emphatically campaign for gender equality, equal opportunities and diversity.



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

Inspireurope+ is an EU-funded project involving seven partners and four associated partners that strengthens and coordinates support in Europe for researchers at risk. Building on the work undertaken by the Inspireurope project (2019–2022), and under the lead of Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland, Inspireurope+ proceeds from the view that excellence in research depends upon free and open scientific debate and requires a diversity of perspectives and methodologies to flourish. Inspireurope+ partners coordinate activities across Europe to support researchers at risk until 2025. This includes direct guidance through webinars and trainings, building institutional capacity and preparedness for support, advising national-level initiatives, informing European policy, and raising awareness to diversify support for researchers at risk in Europe.

For more information, please visit <https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/>

Project Partners:



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Associate Partners:



The Inspireurope+ project has received funding from the European Union, under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe.

Event Information

The first day of the 2024 Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum will take place at Telekom Hauptstadtrepräsentanz at Französische Straße in the center of the capital. The second day, mainly reserved for workshops and networking, will be located at dbb Forum Berlin on Friedrichstraße. The venues are close to each other and can best be reached by subway via the stops “Unter den Linden” (U6) or “Alexanderplatz” (U2, U5, U8).

Parts of the programme will be offered as a hybrid event. Parts of the first day will be offered via livestream on the Humboldt Foundation’s YouTube channel. You can find the programme as well as other helpful information on the conference app. The app is also useful to contact other conference participants using the chat function.

Please download the mobile app via the appropriate QR code. Open the app and join the event by entering your personal login details.



▶ Android



▶ Apple

Conference Coordination

Maïke Didero, Sandra Grziwa

Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Email: inspireurope@avh.de

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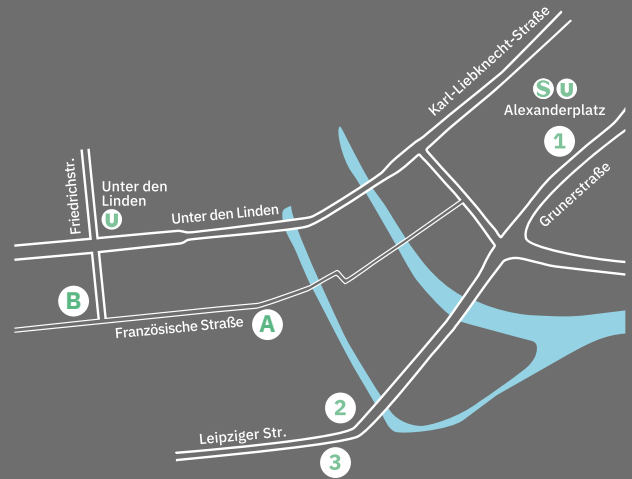
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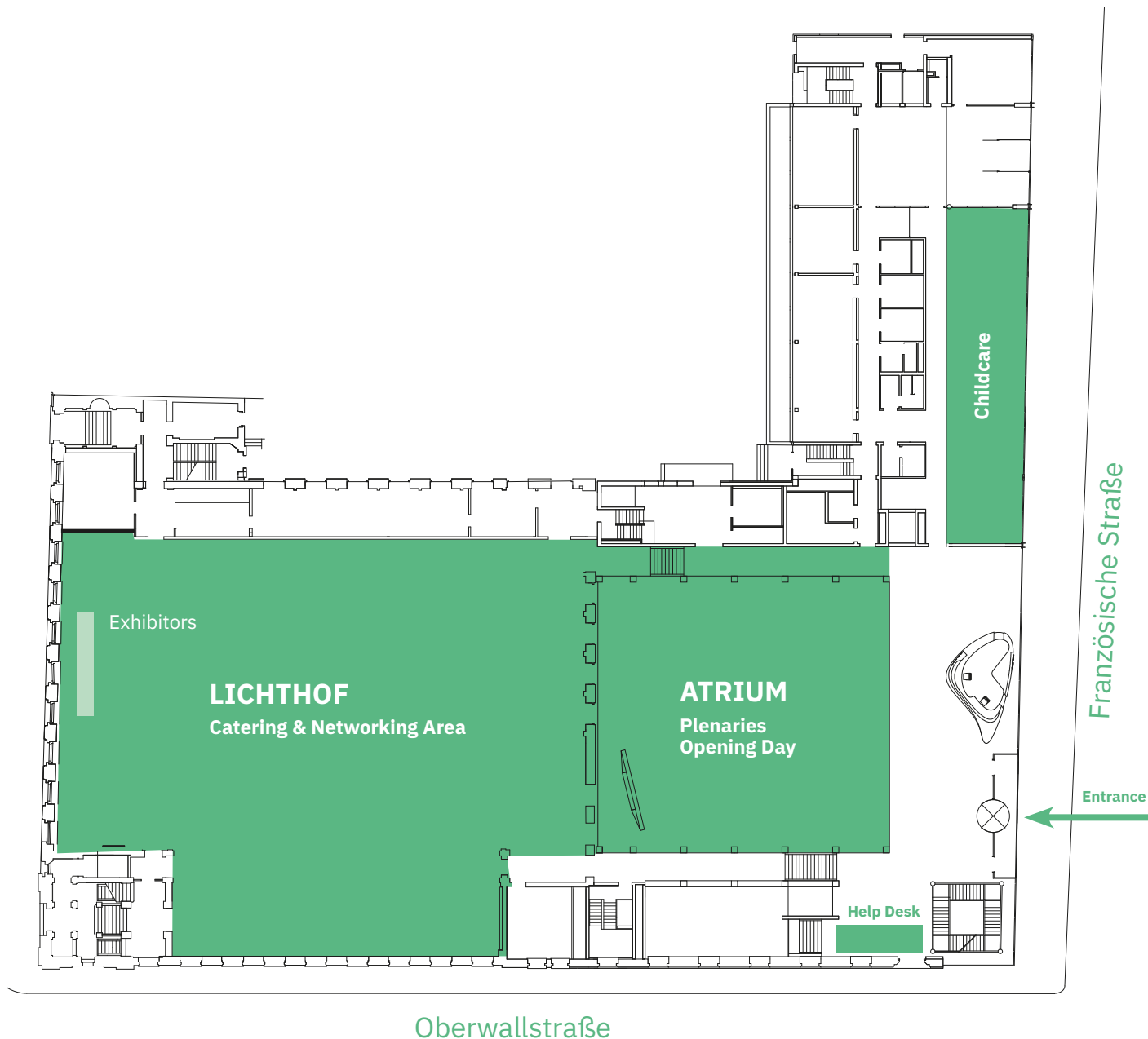
Venue Map

WIFI-Code

Name: **Telekom**

No Password needed

Thursday, 18 April 2024
Telekom Hauptstadtrepräsentanz



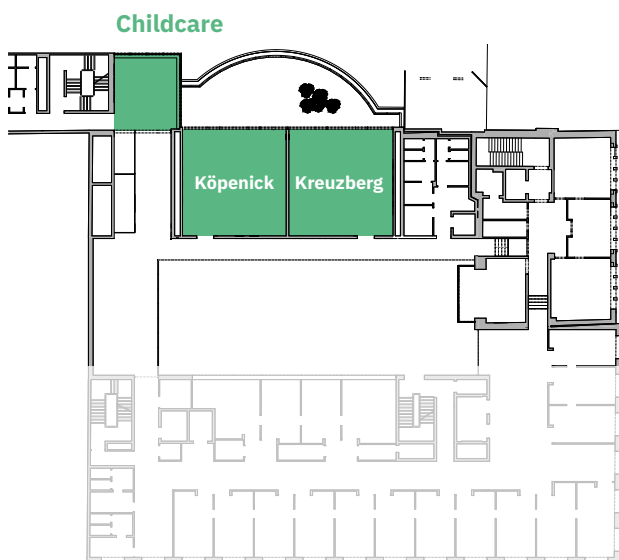
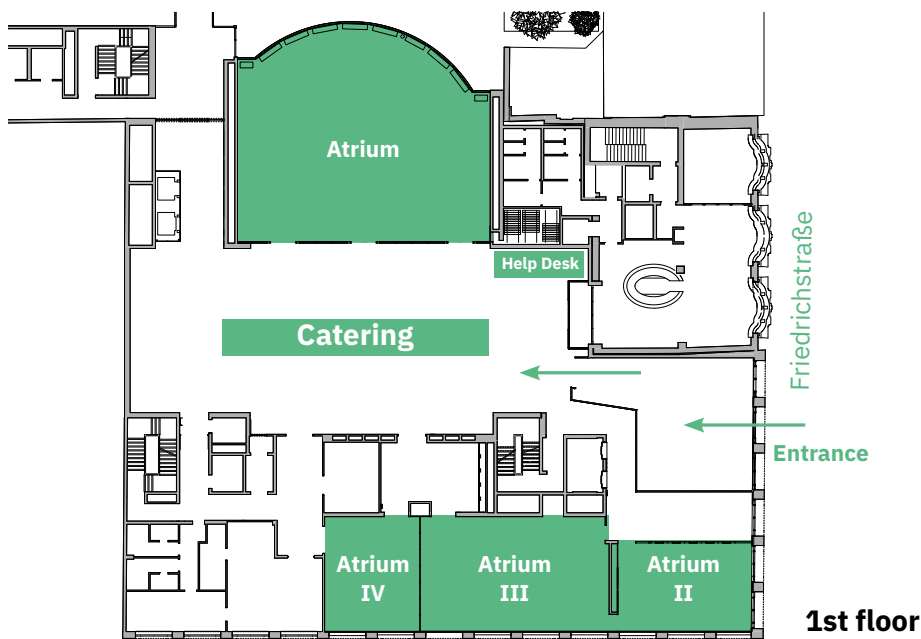
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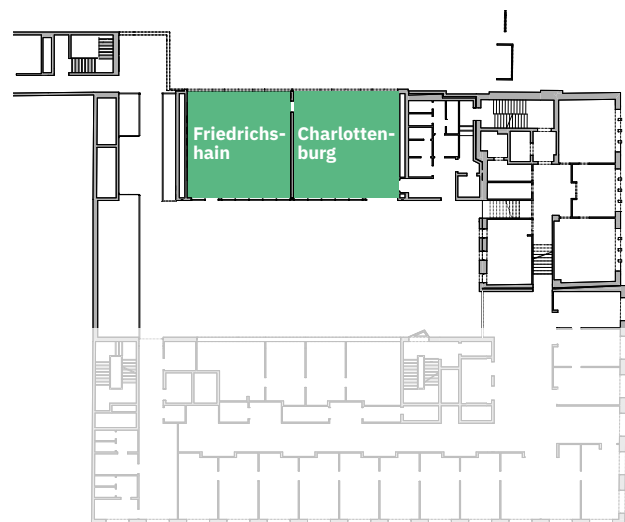
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Friday, 19 April 2024

dbb Forum Berlin



3rd floor



4th floor

Programme

Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Pre-Forum Meetings (by invitation only)

dbb Forum Berlin, Friedrichstraße 169, 10117 Berlin

19:00 – 21:00 _____ **Welcome Dinner for Partner Organisations**

Thursday, 18 April 2024

Pre-Forum Meetings (by invitation only)

Telekom Hauptstadtrepräsentanz, Französische Str. 33a-c, 10117 Berlin

9:00 – 10:30 _____ **a) SAR Germany General Assembly (on-site)**

b) MSCA4Ukraine Joint Committee Meeting (hybrid)

10:30 – 11:00 _____ **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 _____ **SAR Germany Regional Meetings (on-site)**

10:45 – 13:15 _____ **EUA Leadership Roundtable (on-site)**

Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum

Telekom Hauptstadtrepräsentanz, Französische Str. 33a-c, 10117 Berlin
(broadcast via online streaming)

From 12:30 _____ **Welcome Lunch** _____ **Lichthof**

14:00–14:30 _____ **Forum Opening and Words of Welcome** _____ **Atrium**

Robert Schlögl, President, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Robert Quinn, Executive Director, Scholars at Risk Network

Anke Reiffenstuel, Commissioner for External Science,
Education and Research Policy, Federal Foreign Office

14:30 – 15:30 **Panel 1: Academic Freedom in Authoritarian Contexts** **Atrium**

A Multinational Perspective

Across the world, authoritarian regimes are targeting universities and faculty, silencing critical thinking and suppressing academic freedom. Providing insights on Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Iran and Turkey, this panel will discuss examples of oppression strategies and how scholars have responded and endeavored to resist.

Vedat Demir, Philipp Schwartz Alumnus, Einstein Guest Researcher, Freie Universität Berlin

Azadeh Ganjeh, Philipp Schwartz Fellow, University of Hildesheim

Belgheis Jafari Alavi, PAUSE Fellow, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris

Trifonia Melibea Obono, Humboldt Research Fellow, University of Duisburg-Essen

Chair: Susanne Zepp-Zwirner, Professor for Spanish and Latin American Literatures, University of Duisburg-Essen

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break** **Lichthof**

16:00 – 17:00 **Panel 2: Rethinking Diversity and Displacement** **Atrium**

Continuing a sequence of discussions from previous Forums, this panel explores the relationship between diversity and displacement from an individual and an institutional perspective. It asks how calls for more diversity and reflections of intersectional discrimination could be meaningfully implemented in higher education institutions and systems with regard to long-term perspectives for researchers in exile.

Encieh Erfani, Philipp Schwartz Fellow, University of Mainz

Nick Gill, Professor of Human Geography, University of Exeter

Gemma Irvine, Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, Maynooth University

Andrea Lenschow, Vice-President for International Affairs, Diversity and Academic Staff Development, Osnabrück University

Chair: Michael Gaebel, Director Higher Education Policy, European University Association

17:00 – 17:30 **Break** **Lichthof**

17:30 – 18:45 **Panel 3: Exiled Academics and Diaspora Networks** **Atrium**

This panel presents insights into how networks among academic communities abroad contribute to fostering mutual exchange with and support to academic communities in their country of origin, strengthening innovative research and education systems. The discussion will focus on the Ukrainian diaspora as an example of a particularly strong and active network of researchers.

Aleksandra Antoniouk, Chair, Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine on Science and Technology Development

Lucian Brujan, Senior Scientific Officer International Relations, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Anastasiia Hubina, MSCA4Ukraine Fellow, University of Chemistry and Technology Prague

Marija Mitic, Policy Analyst, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Oleksandr Shtokvych, Head of Secretariat, Open Society University Network, Central European University

Chair: Olga Garaschuk, Ukrainian Academic International Network, German-Ukrainian Academic Society, Professor of Neurophysiology, University of Tübingen

19:00 – 21:00 **Dinner Reception** **Lichthof**

Friday, 19 April 2024

dbb Forum Berlin, Friedrichstraße 169, 10117 Berlin (Track 3 hybrid)

Parallel Tracks

From 9:00 _____ **Track 1 for Researchers at Risk (PSI, MSCA4Ukraine and other fellows)**

Track 2 Workshops for Host Institutions in Germany

Track 3 Workshops for European Stakeholders

Track 1 for Researchers at Risk (PSI, MSCA4Ukraine and other Fellows)

9:00 – 13:00 _____ **Discipline-oriented coaching and networking opportunities**

These five workshops support researchers at risk in building a professional identity as a scientist and gaining clarity on how to navigate the research scene within and beyond academia as a researcher. They offer the opportunity to meet and establish networks with fellows in similar research areas.

- a) Gain clarity on your career path – Social Sciences _____ **Köpenick**
- b) Gain clarity on your career path – Natural Sciences _____ **Kreuzberg**
- c) Gain clarity on your career path – Life Sciences _____ **Friedrichshain**
- d) Gain clarity on your career path – Humanities _____ **Charlottenburg**
- e) Gain clarity on your career path – Computer Sciences _____ **WissenschaftsForum**

Participants in workshop e) are requested to meet at WissenschaftsForum, Markgrafenstr. 37, 10117 Berlin Mitte/Gendarmenmarkt.

Topical sessions and general networking opportunities for researchers at risk

9:00 – 10:30 _____ **f) The legal status of at-risk researchers in Germany: Knowing your rights — Atrium III**

This workshop gives insights to the legal framework conditions for working in German and European research institutions as well for pursuing research activity in the private sector. It provides an overview of German migration law, insights into how to deal with one's changing legal status, and how to approach rights of residency when a fellowship is ending.

11:00 – 12:30 _____ **g) Pathways towards successful career perspectives – _____ Atrium III**
Learning from experiences

PSI and other alumni share their experiences and strategies as to how to manage the transition to post-fellowship opportunities, both within academia as well as in other related fields of professional employment

9:00 – 10:30 _____ **h) Open networking opportunity across academic disciplines _____ Atrium IV**

This networking café is open for all fellows. It will be attended by a MSCA4Ukraine programme manager as well as representatives from the European Commission and REA. MSCA4Ukraine fellows will thus have the opportunity for networking activities as well as for feedback on their fellowship experience.

Track 2 Workshops for Host Institutions in Germany

9:00 – 10:30 _____ **a) Workshop for Philipp Schwartz Host Institution Representatives – Grant Management and Beyond** _____ **Atrium II**

This workshop will serve as a forum to discuss questions on the administrative implementation of Philipp Schwartz grants and challenges in providing support to displaced researchers.

Cornelia Hörtnner, Programme Director Philipp Schwartz Initiative, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Katja Machacsek, Senior Programme Coordinator Philipp Schwartz Initiative, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Nina Marsh, Head of Internal Auditing, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

10:30 – 11:00 _____ **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 _____ **b) PSI Workshop Host Institutions – Networking and Mutual Learning** _____ **Atrium II**

This open space will offer representatives of PSI host institutions opportunities to informally continue discussions or address additional topics with each other and with representatives of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative.

Track 3 Workshops for European Stakeholders

9:00 – 10:30 _____ **a) Workshop for National-Level and European Initiatives (hybrid)** _____ **Atrium**

This session is aimed at representatives of individual institutions, national agencies, funders and others interested in organising at the national level, representatives from long-established, or developing programmes, including SAR sections. Attendees will share insights into what is necessary and helpful to establish support programmes for researchers at risk. The main learnings from the newly published Inspireurope mapping report on national-level initiatives as well as European funding opportunities for researchers at risk will be presented.

Florence Balthasar, Scholars at Risk Switzerland, Zurich University of the Arts

Marija Fedotovaite, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Laura Lohéac, Executive Director, PAUSE, Collège de France

Michal Vašečka, Scholars at Risk Slovakia, Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts

Stephen Wordsworth, Executive Director, Council for At-Risk Academics, London

Chair: Maike Didero, Programme Director Inspireurope+, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

10:30 – 11:00 _____ **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 13:00 _____ **Inspireurope+ Workshop for mentors and host institution representatives across Europe (hybrid)** _____ **Atrium**

This workshop will focus on the groundwork of academic mentoring, and the necessary institutional support for improving the mentor's situation. Experienced mentors will share and discuss reflections on their mentoring practice, for instance the art of personalizing one's mentoring approach to preconditions and needs of the mentee, defining the boundaries of academic mentoring, and identifying supplementary measures. The first hour of the workshop is organized in a hybrid format while the second hour is onsite only.

Marit Egner, Senior Adviser, University of Oslo

Guest, Researcher at Risk

Francesca Helm, Associate professor, University of Padova

Chairs: Karolina Catoni and Sarah Blichfeldt, International Center, University of Gothenburg

12:30 – 14:00 _____ **Light farewell lunch**

Post-Forum Meetings (by invitation only)

14:00 – 15:30 _____ **SAR Germany Steering Group Meeting**

Speakers

Alexandra Antoniouk

Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine on Science and Technology Development



Florence Balthasar

Scholars at Risk Switzerland, Head of International Affairs at the Zurich University of the Arts
Florence Balthasar has been Head of International Affairs at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) since January 2019. As such, she is contributing to the development of the international strategy of ZHdK and is responsible for its implementation. In this function, Florence is member of several expert groups and took over the Co-Chairing of the Swiss Section of Scholars at Risk in January 2024. Prior to that, Florence worked for seven years in Brussels at the Swiss Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education (SwissCore) as Advisor and then Co-Head of Office. She holds a Master degree in Translation from the University of Geneva and a Master degree in International relations and Communication from the Université Libre de Bruxelles.



Sarah Blichfeldt

International Center, University of Gothenburg
Sarah is part of the secretariat for the Swedish section of Scholars at risk. She is also a local SAR coordinator at University of Gothenburg.



Lucian Brujan

Senior Scientific Officer for International Relations,
German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
Lucian Brujan is Senior Scientific Officer for International Relations at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Since 2015, he has also been leading the Berlin Process Joint Science Conference, a science diplomacy programme, part of an intergovernmental initiative. Since 2024, he is a member of the European Commission' Expert Group on Science Diplomacy. He has over 15 years of experience in international cooperation, science diplomacy, EU R&D policy and university management. He has worked at the University of Tübingen as Director of International Affairs and Communication, and as lecturer in Geography and Geoscience. He graduated in Geography and German Studies, studying at the University of Tübingen and the Western University of Timișoara.



Karolina Catoni

Deputy Head, International Centre, University of Gothenburg
Karolina Catoni is the acting director at the International Centre at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and has more than 20 years' experience in internationalisation of higher education. Karolina chairs the Scholars at Risk Network – Sweden Section, (SAR- Sweden) which includes members from 30 Swedish higher education institutions and associated members.



Vedat Demir

Philipp Schwartz Alumnus, Einstein Guest Researcher, Freie Universität Berlin
Dr. Vedat Demir is a visiting scholar at Freie Universität Berlin. He served as an Einstein Guest Researcher at the university until 2024. Previously, he was a visiting professor at Universität Potsdam as a PSI fellow until 2022. Prior to that, he worked at Istanbul University as a communication professor until his dismissal by a government decree in 2016. Dr. Demir obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from Marmara University and his Ph.D. from Istanbul University. His research focuses on political communication and public diplomacy. He is a former General Secretary of the Turkish Press Council.



Encieh Erfani

Philipp Schwartz Fellow, University of Mainz
Encieh Erfani is a PSI fellow at Mainz University. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor in Iran until her resignation in Sep. 2022, in solidarity with protests. Following her resignation, she has been an advocate for academic freedom and human rights. She earned her PhD from Bonn University in 2012 in Theoretical Physics. She holds affiliations, including a Fellow of the International Science Council, an Advisory Board member of the InterAcademy Partnership, and a member of the Global Young Academy.

Marija Fedotovaite

Marija Fedotovaite is Policy Officer at Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Unit, DG for Education, Youth, Sport & Culture, European Commission. She is responsible for cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries and MSCA4Ukraine project. Marija has been working on the Eastern Partnership region for over 8 years in different NGOs as well as the European Institutions.



Michael Gaebel

Director, Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association
Michael Gaebel is the Director of the Higher Education Policy Unit of the European University Association (EUA) in Brussels, which represents 800 universities from all over Europe and 33 national university associations. His work higher education reform in the European Higher Education Area of the Bologna Process, and the European Education Area, including learning and teaching, equity and inclusion, and internationalisation. He is also in charge of EUA's engagement for academics and students at risk. EUA is a partner in the Inspireurope+ project and, together with Scholars at Risk and the Humboldt Foundation, implements for the European Commission the MSCA4Ukraine initiative.



Azadeh Ganjeh

Philipp Schwartz Fellow, University of Hildesheim
Azadeh Ganjeh, born in Tehran, Iran, holds a Doctorate in Philosophy in Theatre Studies and is a scholar, Activist, performance artist, and dramaturge. She left Iran while serving as the director of International Office of the Fine Arts College and a Professor at the School of Performing Arts-University of Tehran in 2022. Since April 2022, she has held a fellowship with the Phillip Schwartz Initiative and is affiliated with The University of Hildesheim, Institut für Medien, Theater und Populäre Kultur.



Olga Garaschuk

Olga Garaschuk holds the Chair for Neurophysiology (W3) at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen since 2008. She is a President of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society; a Vice-president of the German Physiological Society; an elected member of Academia Europaea; a scientific advisory board member of the MSCA4Ukraine (European Commission) and holds several other honorary and academic positions. Her research (supported by e.g., DFG, DAAD, VolkswagenStiftung, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung and Horizon 2020) focuses on (i) functional analysis of neuronal networks in vivo, especially in the context of perception of sensory stimuli; (ii) interactions between the nervous and the immune systems of the brain as well (iii) aging and neurodegeneration (in particular, Alzheimer's disease).



Nick Gill

Nick Gill is Professor and Director of Research in Human Geography at the University of Exeter. He is a political geographer with interests in forced displacement, mobility and its confiscation, and socio-spatial perspectives on the law. His most recent book, 'Asylum Determination in Europe: Ethnographic Perspectives' provides detailed ethnographic perspectives on the legal and bureaucratic processes by which asylum claims are decided and he is now leading a new team based in the UK on the topic of forcibly displaced students' access to Higher Education.



Francesca Helm

Associate Professor, University of Padova

Francesca Helm is associate professor of English language and translation at the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, University of Padova. From 2019-2023 she was co-coordinator of the Italian section of Scholars at Risk (with Claudia Padovani and Ester Gallo), and currently is co-cordinator of SAR Italy for the University of Padova and since 2020 has co-taught with Claudia Padovani the SAR Students at Risk general course at the university



Anastasiia Hubina

MSCA4Ukraine Fellow, University of Chemistry and Technology Prague

Anastasiia Hubina is a scientist working in the field of Macromolecular Chemistry. She got her PhD in 2013 at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. In March 2022 she moved to Prague, Czech Republic, and since December 2022 began working as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Polymers at the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague. Her current research focuses on synthesis of polymer membranes for application in alkaline water electrolyzers for hydrogen production. In 2023 she also joined the initiative of Czech Ukrainian Scientific Society, which aims to enhance connections between Czech and Ukrainian scientists and integration Ukrainian science into European scientific community.



Belgheis Jafari

PAUSE Fellow, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), Paris

Belgheis Jafari Alavi is an Afghan researcher based in Paris and lecturer at Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco). She was a PAUSE beneficiary in 2019. Her recent research has focused on migration and Afghan popular culture. She collaborated with

ANR LIMINAL project (Linguistic and Intercultural Mediations in a context of International Migrations) and contributed in the study of the representations of exile about contemporary migrants and on the lexicon of migration. Currently, she is doing research on Afghan modern literature.



Sezer Kisa

Global Health Nursing at Oslo Metropolitan University

Sezer Kisa is a Professor of Global Health Nursing at Oslo Metropolitan University. She holds a Master's and PhD in Women and Children's Health Nursing from Hacettepe University. She is the founder and co-leader of the Migration and Minority Health Research group at Oslo Metropolitan University and is a member of the Global Health Women Norway, Global Burden of Disease Network, and NordPlus Nordlys network. She has numerous awards and achievements in her field and was the winner of the 2023 Research Award in the category of Research and Development at Oslo Metropolitan University. She is listed among the world's most influential scientists by Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists list.



Andrea Lenschow

Vice President for International Affairs, Diversity and Academic Staff Development, Osnabrück University

Andrea Lenschow is Professor of Political Science at Osnabrück University and since October 2022 Vice President for International Affairs, Diversity and Academic Staff Development at her University. She received her MA and PhD degrees in the United States and during the early stages of her academic career she worked as a Postdoc / Assistant Professor in the Netherlands, Italy and Austria. She has acted in various Jury functions for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.



Laura Lohéac

Executive Director, PAUSE, Collège de France

Laura Lohéac has been the Executive Director of the French hosting Program for scientists in exile, PAUSE at Collège de France since May 2017 and President of the Association Marianne for Human Rights Defenders since December 2021.

As an expert in international issues, L. Lohéac held several positions at the French General Secretariat for National Defence, at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, as the advisor in charge of speeches for the Minister, at the Ministry of Defence, and at the office of the Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, where she established PAUSE.



Marija Mitic

Policy Analyst, MSCA Unit, DG EAC, European Commission

Marija Mitic is a Policy Analyst at the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. Marija coordinates feedback to policy activities in the unit, such as data monitoring, strengthening MSCA science-policy links and structured uptake of project results in policymaking. She is responsible for several MSCA initiatives supporting researchers at risk and academic freedom, including the Inspireurope+ project.



Trifonia Melibea Ntutumu Obono

Humboldt Research Fellow, Programme for Postdocs

Trifonia Melibea Obono (Equatorial Guinea, 1982) is a writer, activist and professor at the National University of Equatorial Guinea. With a PhD in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies and Equality Policies from the University of Salamanca (Spain), she has made intersectionality and feminisms the main axes of her work. She has received several awards for her literary work and collaborates with prominent media outlets such as El Salto, El País, Afroféminas.



Ghulam Rabbani Osmani

Heidelberg University/BAMF

Ghulam Rabbani Osmani is Alumni-Guest researcher at Heidelberg University and a German teacher at the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), where he gives integration courses at the LFZ - Institute for German as Foreign Language Philology. In his previous position he worked as Head and associate professor of the German Department of Herat University in Afghanistan (2011 – 2021).



Robert Quinn

Executive Director, Scholars at Risk Network

Robert Quinn is a human rights advocate, lecturer, lawyer, and executive director of Scholars at Risk (SAR), an international network of over 600 higher education institutions and thousands of individuals in over 40 countries dedicated to protecting at-risk scholars, promoting academic freedom, and defending everyone's freedom to think, question and share ideas. Mr. Quinn is the host of the Free to Think podcast and author of, among others, From words to actions: A call for international guidelines on implementing academic freedom, in GUNi World Report-Special Issue: New Visions for Higher Education Institutions towards 2030 (May 2022). To learn more about SAR, joining the network, or hosting scholars visit <http://scholarsatrisk.org>.



Anke Reiffenstuel

Commissioner for External Science, Education and Research Policy, Federal Foreign Office Director for Academic Relations, Education and Research Policy at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin since August 2023. From 2019 to 2023 she was Ambassador at the German Embassy in Manila. From 2012 to 2019 she was first Deputy and then Head of the Division of Humanitarian Assistance, Crisis Prevention, Humanitarian Demining (Operations), Stabilization and Post Conflict reconstruction at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. Anke Reiffenstuel has worked in the diplomatic service since 1993; her postings included the German embassies in London, New Delhi, Cairo and Manila.



Oleksandr Shtokvych

Open Society University Network, Central European University

Oleksandr Shtokvych leads the Secretariat of the Open Society University Network (OSUN) at Central European University (Vienna, Austria). OSUN is a global network that integrates learning and the advancement of knowledge across geographic and demographic boundaries, promotes civic engagement on behalf of open societies, and expands access of underserved communities to higher education. He is a Co-Director of the OSUN Threatened Scholars Integration Initiative (TSI). At TSI, his role has been overall program design and planning,

fundraising and administration, including managing placements of over 200 Fellows across the OSUN partner institutions and their integration in the hosts' and network-wide academic programs.



Ievgen Solodkyi

Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg

Ievgen Solodkyi studied at Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute from 2004 until 2010. In 2015, he received a doctoral degree in materials science. Since 2011, Ievgen worked as an assistant, then as an associate professor. Currently he works as a researcher on a project funded by German Research Foundation (DFG) in Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg, Institute of Materials and Joining Technology (IWF).

Asli Telli

Associate Professor, University of the Witwatersrand

Asli Telli is a scholar of media, communications and social informatics as well as a devoted advocate for freedom of speech. She worked as a researcher and a faculty member in Turkey, Malta, Switzerland, US and Germany. As a former AvH-Phillip Schwartz fellow, she contributes to a number of recent projects, including "Mapping Funds for Research at Risk", "New Media for New Europeans" and "Weaving Liberation for Digital Rights Field in Europe". Lately, she collaborates with her colleagues in reflecting on critical peace studies, diaspora knowledge commons and collaborative design for knowledge futures as part of her remote affiliation at WISER of Wits University, South Africa.



Michal Vašečka

Scholars at Risk Slovakia, Bratislava Policy Institute

Michal Vašečka, PhD., is a sociologist by background and focuses his interests on issues of ethnicity, race, antisemitism, and migration studies. He is a program director of Bratislava Policy Institute. Since 2012 Michal Vašečka serves as a representative of Slovakia in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe. He operated at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno in 2002-2017 and at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of the Comenius University in 2006-2009.



Stephen Wordsworth

Executive Director, CARA, United Kingdom

Stephen Wordsworth has been Executive Director of Cara (the Council for At-Risk Academics) since 2012. Cara was founded in 1933 as a rescue mission for academics who were being forced out of their posts in Germany. Through its Fellowship and Syria Programmes, and its partnership with the 'Researchers at Risk' programme, Cara is now actively engaged with over 700 formerly at-risk academics. Previously, Stephen was a member of the UK Diplomatic Service, where his last two posts were as Deputy Head of Mission in Moscow (2003-2005) and Ambassador in Belgrade (2006-2010).



Refet Ali Yalçın

Saint-Gobain

His research is based on radiative heat transfer and photonics. Application fields are thermal efficiencies of the buildings and crop growth of greenhouses with fluorescence. He had his PhD degree in Mech. Eng. from Bogazici University. He came to Institut Pprime, France in 2019 thanks to PAUSE. With a Fulbright fellowship he went to UCLA for a year, with the MSCA Individual Fellowship he returned to France. Finally, he has joined Saint-Gobain research and is currently conducting research there.



Susanne Zepp-Zwirner

Professor, University Essen-Duisburg

Prof. Dr. Susanne Zepp-Zwirner is Chair and University Professor for Spanish and Latin American Literatures at the University of Duisburg-Essen since April 2023. Previously, from 2011 to 2023, she held the position of tenured Full Professor of Spanish, Portuguese, and French literatures at Freie Universitaet Berlin (FUB), where she also directed the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. Earlier in her career, from 2003 to 2015, she served as Deputy Director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University. Prof. Zepp is a prolific author and editor, with over twenty books and forty articles and book chapters published in multiple languages. In recognition of her significant contributions to research in Spanish history and culture, the Spanish government honored her with the highest civil award in 2023.

Coaches



Nils Aschenbruck

Prof. Dr. Nils Aschenbruck is a professor for distributed systems at the Osnabrück University, Germany. His research focus is on dependable and robust networked systems including scenario modeling, traffic engineering, and network security. He is currently the computer science department's head as well as a member of the dean's board at Osnabrück University. He has also been elected as 2nd Vice President of the IEEE Computer Society and within this role he is a member of the IEEE Computer Society 2024 Executive Committee.



Christine Kohistani

Christine Kohistani is a geographer with a PhD in Geographical Conflict Research, a certified coach (DGfC), trainer and organizational consultant. She has many years of international project experience in international academic cooperation in conflict regions and industry. She works as a consultant, trainer and coach and is co-founder of SAMIN.WORLD in Düsseldorf, Germany, a company specialized in improving cooperation. She specializes in intercultural cooperation, conflict management and sustainable leadership. Her goal is to support scientists and scientific organizations in developing sustainability skills for the challenges of the future.



Eva Reichmann

Since 2011 owner of beruf & leben GbR and working as trainer and consultant, focus on career planning, doctoral studies, job-related competences and University teaching. 2004 to 2010 establishing and coordinating a service unit for study, teaching and career at an university. Prior to that 7 years consulting and training for HR and OD in the private sector. 1990 – 2001 teaching and research at the University of Bielefeld. She works with universities nationwide, allowing ideas from other areas to be incorporated into her work - and she knows both Academia and the private sector from practical experience.



Katja Ponert

Katja Ponert is a lawyer and specialist for social law at the law firm vpmk Rechtsanwälte in Berlin-Mitte. She specializes in labor law, migration law, EU Blue Card, foreign professionals for companies, citizenship law/EU and freedom of movement law. She is also a volunteer consultant in migration law for various initiatives and organizations.



Amani Said

Dr. Amani Said, founder of Success Beyond The Lab, empowers scientists to pursue impactful careers. Recently, she established Career Boosters, an online community fostering connections and support for scientists' career journeys. With a Ph.D. in Developmental Biology from the Max-Planck Institute, Dresden, her early career struggles sparked an interest in personal development. Learning from top coaches, she cultivated a growth mindset, shaping her dream career. Amani has since coached and trained over a thousand scientists, emphasizing curiosity and exploration in one's career, as reflected in her motto: "Your career is a never-ending experiment; be curious, explore, and enjoy the re-search."



Anna Schreiter

Anne Schreiter is Executive Director of the German Scholars Organization (GSO), an independent nonprofit that advises, connects, promotes, and funds researchers who want to build a career in Germany. After receiving her PhD in Organizational Sociology from the University of St. Gallen, she spent a year as postdoctoral researcher at UC Berkeley, USA. Anne is a certified job coach and experienced trainer for research institutions.

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation



Robert Schlögl

Robert Schlögl is a chemist with research interests in heterogeneous catalysis and materials for energy storage concepts. After his studies and PhD in Munich, he was a postdoc in Cambridge and Basel. Following his habilitation in Berlin, he became a professor at the Goethe University Frankfurt. For many years, he led the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Berlin (1994–2023), as well as being the founding and subsequently managing director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion in Mülheim an der Ruhr (2011–2022). Long before starting his tenure as President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2023, Professor Schlögl has been active both nationally and internationally in a number of advisory and consultative bodies. He is Vice-President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and a member of several other academies. Concurrently, he chairs the Advisory Board of the Kopernikus Projects of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which drive research on energy transition. He has played a significant role in bringing together sciences, industry, civil society and policy makers.



Judith Wellen

Dr. Judith Wellen is head of the Strategy department at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Foundation's Representative for External Relations. She served as head of the International Strategy Office at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and as personal advisor to the president of the university. Previously, she was head of several executive training programmes at the Goethe Institut. Following studies in Tübingen, Dublin, Berlin and Madrid, she was an associated fellow of the German-French graduate school "Institutional Orders, Text and Symbols" at Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes-Sorbonne, Paris, and Technische Universität Dresden. Wellen holds an M.A. in Art History and Cultural Anthropology from Humboldt Universität, and a Ph.D. with distinction in Art History from Freie Universität Berlin. Her numerous grants include a Ph.D. scholarship from the Cusanuswerk (Episcopal Scholarship Foundation). Her dissertation examined the relationship between art and politics, in particular the subject of political iconography in Early Modern Spain.



Nina Marsh

Dr. Nina Marsh is the Head of the staff units Internal Audit and Sustainability Management at the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation. Together with her auditing team, she coordinates more than 20 external audits per year, which have a focus on the use of funds. The host institutions of Philipp Schwartz fellows are part of the audit universe since 2018. Nina graduated with a PhD in Medical Psychology from the University of Bonn and received her MBA from the FOM University in Cologne. During her studies she was a trainee at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

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The German Section of the Scholars at Risk Network



A Alexander von Humboldt Foundation:
The Foundation currently hosts the secretariat for the German Section of the Scholars at Risk Network.

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Scholars at Risk is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission is to protect threatened researchers and promote academic freedom. The German Section and its steering group are chaired by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. At present, it comprises 61 member institutions.

SAR Germany and its regional networks foster cooperation between stakeholders at the national and regional level, strengthening services for researchers at risk. Collaborations frequently incorporate other institutions committed to supporting researchers at risk.

Mitglieder / Members:

- 1 Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen
- 2 Universität Bayreuth
- 3 Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin
- 4 Bard College Berlin
- 5 Freie Universität Berlin
- 6 Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin
- 7 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 8 Internationale Psychoanalytische Universität Berlin
- 9 Leibniz-Gemeinschaft Berlin
- 10 Technische Universität Berlin
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- 13 Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- 14 Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung
- 15 Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (German Rectors' Conference) Bonn
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- 27 Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
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Steuerungsgremium / Steering Group:

Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung
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Universität zu Köln
Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Regionale Verbände / Regional Networks:

- BW** Regionales Netzwerk PSI Plus (Baden-Württemberg)
- B** Bayerisches Hochschul-Netzwerk für gefährdete Forschende
- BB** Scholars at Risk Netzwerk Berlin-Brandenburg
- V** SAR Verbund Norddeutschland
- NRW** Scholars at Risk Germany Section NRW Group

Identity protection

The organisers are aware that attendees may have to consider security concerns. While the Forum is by invitation only, it will be open to attendees from various backgrounds, possibly including members of the press. Parts of the Forum will also be broadcast online via YouTube (day 1) or via closed virtual rooms (parts of day 2). The organisers may document parts of the event via photo, video or screenshots for public relations purposes. Special measures to protect vulnerable participants will be in place, such as „no photo zones“ in the plenary rooms. Attendees are requested not to take photographs or videos where other attendees might be visible.

For questions regarding the Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum 2024, please contact:

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Imprint

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Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum 2024

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Conference Agency:

con gressa GmbH

Layout & Print:

unicom Werbeagentur GmbH

Photos:

S.25: Deutschlandkarte: © shutterstock.com/Ingo Menhard
Distributed exclusively to the participants of the Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum 2024

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