

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  ITALY SECTION

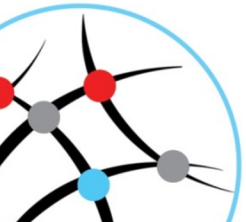
The SAR Italy experience



Francesca Helm
University of Padova
Co-coordinator of SAR Italy

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK   ITALY SECTION



Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas

SCHOLARS AT RISK

N E T W O R K

Background work @ UNIPD and UNITN

- Seminars and speakers series on situation in Turkey (UniPd 2016-2018)
- Hosting a Turkish scholar (UniPd 2017-2018)
- Seminar series on Academic freedom (UniTn 2018)
 - Networking with SAR International towards the constitution of SAR Italy
 - Meeting with SAR Switzerland (Unipd 2018)
- Students Advocacy seminar (UniTn 2019)
 - Organization of Winter School on “Knowledges at Risk” & International conference “Universities promoting academic freedom” (18-21 febbraio 2019) > [Launch of SAR Italy](#) and first national Assembly

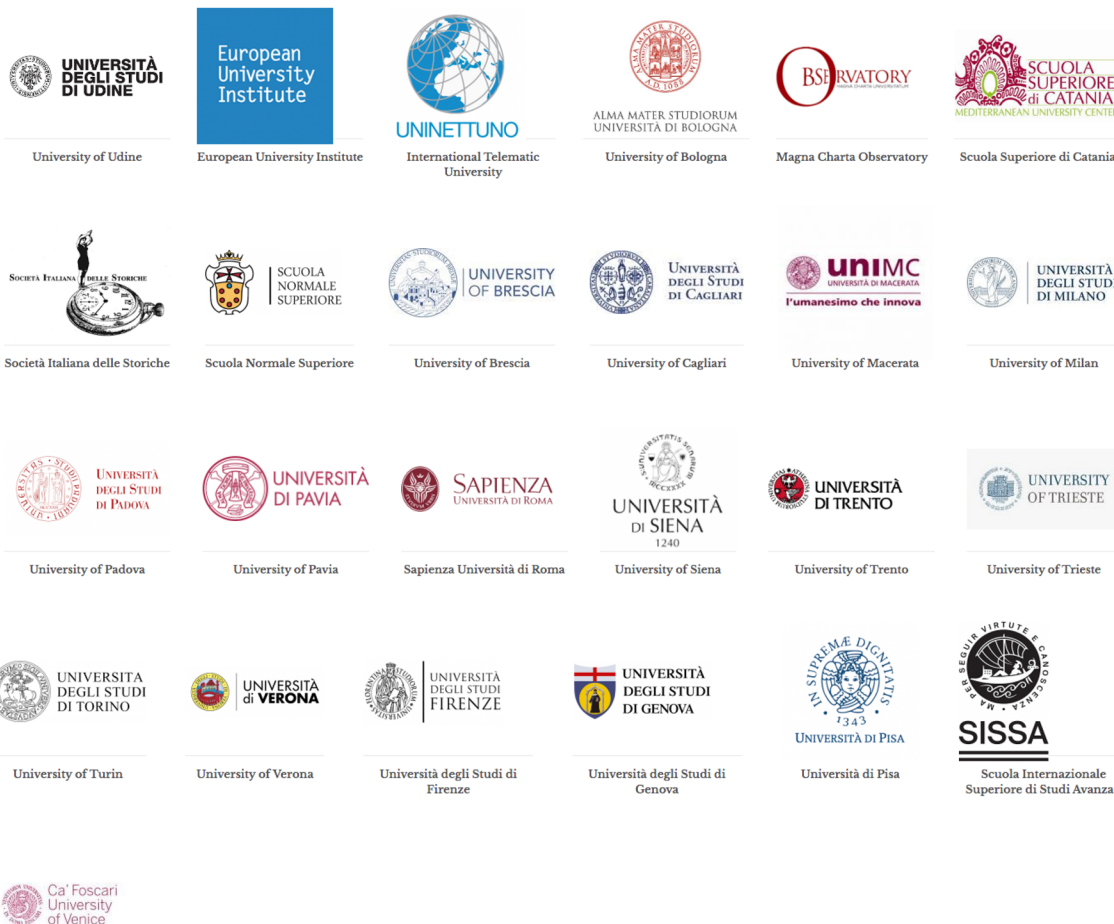
14 Universities signed Constitutive document
See [Founding Statement](#)
Terms of Reference for SAR Italy



SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK ITALY SECTION

Members



Terms of Reference:
Objectives, activities,
governance

Coordination:

- University of Padova
- University of Trento

Steering Committee:

- Scuola Normale Superiore
- University of Cagliari
- University of Padova
- University of Trieste
- University of Trento

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  ITALY SECTION

Steering Committee

Meetings every 2-3 months

Elections after 2 years

General Assembly

Meets at least once a year

Working groups

1. Hosting - How to host
2. Outreach and lobbying
3. Partnerships and synergies

Groups to create

Communications

Advocacy

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK  ITALY SECTION

You are visiting the SAR Italy section website.
To return to the global Scholars at Risk's website, click [here](#).



The Scholars at Risk Italy section was launched at the University of Padova on February 19, 2019.

SAR Italy is a partnership between Italian higher education institutions and research centres and SAR, an international network of higher education institutions aimed at fostering the promotion of academic freedom and protecting the fundamental rights of scholars across the world.

Jump To:

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Members](#)

[Contact](#)

News



Welcome to new members

SAR Italy is happy to welcome 2 new members - the Società Italiana delle Storie (Italian Association of Women Historians) and the Scuola Superiore di Catania, so there are now 25 members, the network is growing.

[Read More](#)



Forced out, Welcome in: European Action for Researchers at Risk

September 3, 2020

On 3rd September at the ESOE (Euroscience Open Forum) conference SAR Italy was present at a panel discussion, organized by Roberta Altin and funded by the University of Trieste, called Forced out, Welcome in: European Action for Researchers at Risk.

[Read More](#)



2019 Annual Report now online

In 2019, our first year of activity, SAR Italy grew from 14 to 20 members. We had 3 national assemblies and 3 steering committees and set up three working groups. We have also formed groups within our institutions and created synergies with local and regional organizations...

[Read More](#)



Academic freedom in pandemic times

Protection

Seminar 'How to host' (in collaboration with SAR international and other European entities) – December 2019

7 at-risk scholars currently hosted in 5 universities, 2 more arriving in 2020

Collaborating with Italian Conference of Rectors to develop hosting programme

Developing How to host guide for Italian context

Advocacy

- Organization of Students' Advocacy Seminars (Trento 2019, Padova 2020)
- Strong collaboration with Adam Braver and other international seminars
- Advocacy actions for Patrick Zaki (letter signed by 12 rectors) and Iranian scholars (Niloufar Bayani and Ahmad Reza Djalali)
- Participation in SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project

Learning

- Fall 2020 Speakers series (regional & national collaborations)
- Researchers' Night 27 November - 'staffetta'
- Workshops and thematic webinars (on country situations, at-risk scholars, support to ongoing campaigns promoted by SAR)
- Student internships to support SAR Italy

A stylized illustration of a man in a brown suit, seen from behind, reaching his arms up towards a large, open red book floating in a blue sky with white clouds. The man has a balding head with some hair on the sides and is wearing a brown suit jacket over a light blue shirt. The book is open, showing white pages and a red cover. The background is a solid blue sky with a few white clouds.

FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER, 17.00 – 19.00

Guest speakers:

ASLI VATANSEVER | Humbolt University-Berlin and University of Padova

SAR-Scholar from Africa

ALBERT SCHRAM | University of Maryland Global Campus – Europe

DELAL AYDIN | Scuola Normale Superiore

Speeches by:

MAURIZIO TIRA | CRUI Delegate for International Affairs and Rector of the University of Brescia

ELENA CATTANEO | TBC

MICHELE TELARO | UNHCR-Italy

Chair:

ESTER GALLO | SAR-Italy co-coordinator and University of Trento

<https://unind.zoom.us/join/1wlfuCTaz0iE9JcF50la5o3-sFlwNKX1b0L>

THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER, 17.00 – 18.30

Guest speaker:

ASLI VATANSEVER | Humboldt University Berlin and University of Padova

Book launch - *At the Margins of Academia* (Brill, 2020)

<https://brill.com/view/book/9789004431355/front-7.xml>

Discussant:

MAGDALENA KMAK | Abo Akademi University - Finland

Chair:

CLAUDIA PADOVANI | SAR-Italy co-coordinator and University of Padova

<https://unipd.zoom.us/joining/register/1lwkcQmarz8tG9P2d1Ttfv8OrkhfWq31Kv8C>

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER, 17.00 – 18.30

Guest Speaker: **SAR-Scholar from Africa**

Title - *The Biomedical and the Relational Model of the body, the Meaning of Illness, and Quality of Care: A Comparative Analysis.*

Discussant:

SEVGI DOĞAN | Scuola Normale Superiore

~~Libertà~~ Accademica

“Proteggiamola”

Ahmadreza Djalali

LIBERI

Niloufar Bayani

**Organizzato dagli studenti dello
'Students Advocacy Seminar' Scholars at Risk Italia,
Università di Padova**

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  ITALY SECTION

Future plans ...

- National Protection Programme (with CRUI)
- Finalize How to Host in Italy guide
- Transnational collaborations: Italian and Swedish Rectors' conferences, transnational, networked advocacy seminar (Italy, Europe and US)
- International conferences (Padova 2021 in the context of 800 years celebration)
- Research activities on academic freedom in Italy

Challenges

- Bureaucratic and financial constraints to hosting
- Duration and sustainability of hosting plans
- Academic environments and recruitment opportunities for SAR scholars
- North/Euro-centric dynamics of cooperation
 - Steep learning curve, investment of time
 - Need to understand issues such as security and risk of scholars

Benefits of creating a national section/network

- positive collaboration amongst universities and develop strong relations, mutual support
- share knowledge and understanding on SAR (no need to reinvent the wheel)
- greater visibility to ‘academic freedom’ and to SAR activities
- stronger lobbying power (eg. with CRUI, with MPs)
- network for hosting scholars - continuity in Italian context

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  ITALY SECTION

Webpage

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/sections/sar-italy/>

Contacts

University of Padova

Claudia Padovani – claudia.padovani@unipd.it

Francesca Helm – francesca.helm@unipd.it

University of Trento

Ester Gallo – ester.gallo@unitn.it

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK   ITALY SECTION

**INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN
PROJECTS PROMOTED BY SAR INTERNATIONAL**

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS #1

Academic Refuge

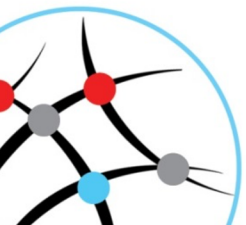
Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership (2017-2019)
UNICA, University of Oslo, University of Ljubljana,
SAR

GOALS:

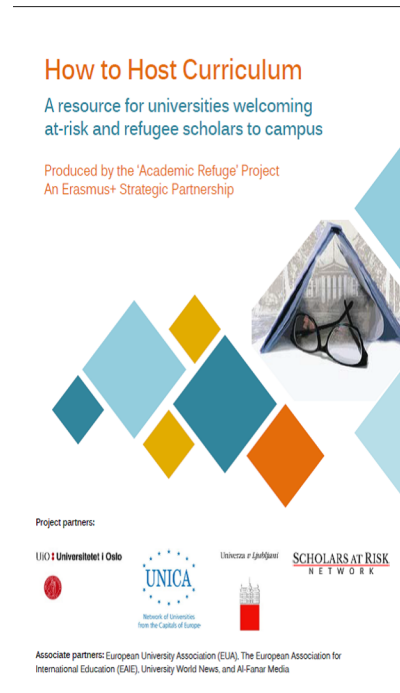
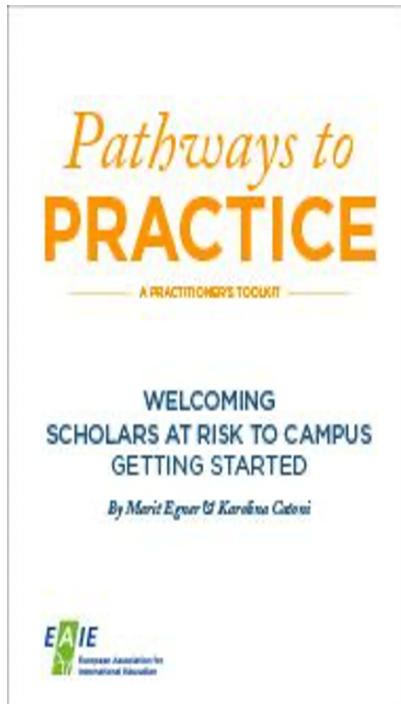
Improve the capacity of European universities to assist refugees and threatened academics;
Promote greater respect for academic freedom and greater protection for higher education values



© Scholars at Risk, Inc. 2017-18

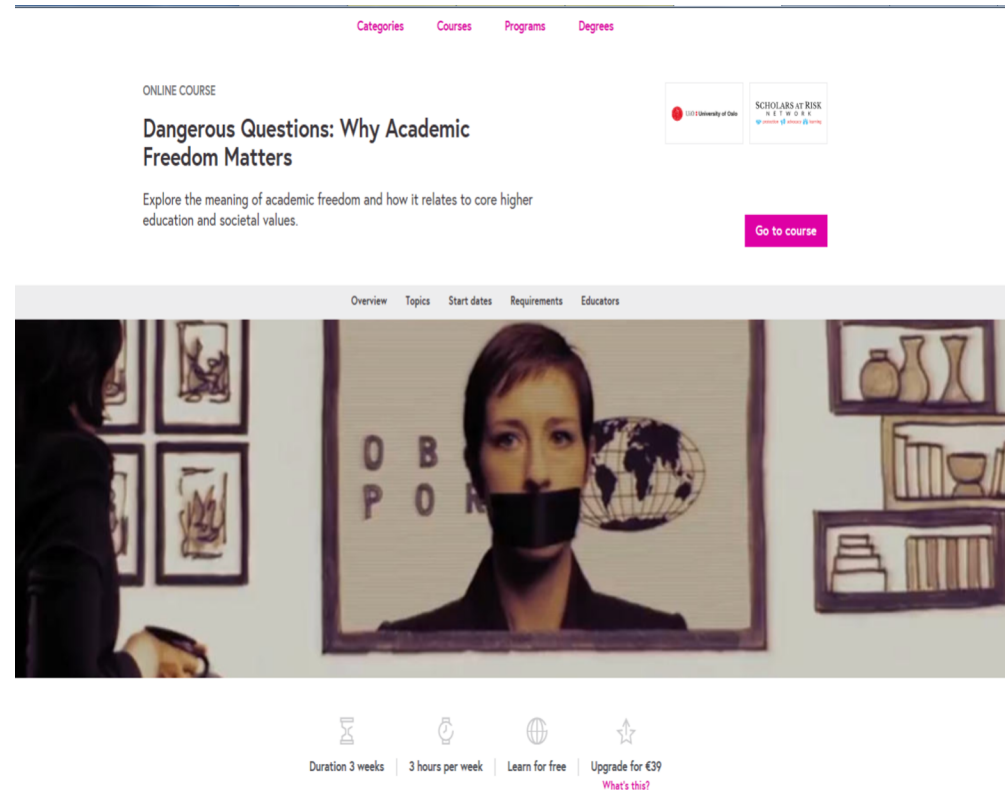


Academic refuge staff training materials



Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas

MOOC course "Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters"



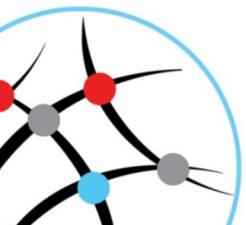
Target groups: HE Students and staff, NGOs, general public
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/academic-freedom>

Putting Values into Practice

- Electronic handbook of inspiring practices
Promoting core higher education values
- Conference in Brussels with the GREET project (13-14 June 2019)



© Scholars at Risk, Inc. 2017-18



PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS #2

InSPIRE Europe. Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe (2019-2021)

GOALS:

1. Groundwork for a long-term, cross-sectoral, European support structure for researchers at risk
2. Contribute to informed policy-making in Europe
3. Bridge the gaps between national and European support mechanisms, between academic and non-academic sectors
4. Improve career development opportunities for researchers at risk
5. Prepare the work environment
6. Grow the diversity of actors supporting researchers at risk, in particular in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, and inclusion of business/industry

