

UNICA and Sapienza University of Rome webinar

"Supporting students and scholars at risk: efforts and good practices of UNICA and CIVIS universities"

Wednesday, 15 December 2021 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm CET

Abstracts and biographies

Luciano Saso | UNICA President



Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) is author of more than 300 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (H-index Google Scholar 53, Scopus 43). He coordinated several research projects in the field of pharmacology and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for the European University Networks UNICA and CIVIS at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 20 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences. Prof. Saso assumed the role of Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015). In October 2015, he was elected President for a first term (2016-2019) and he was re-elected President for a second term (2020-2023) in 2019..

Denise Roche | Advocacy Manager at SAR Europe



Denise Roche is the Advocacy Manager at SAR Europe. She leads SAR Europe's advocacy work to promote academic freedom, including convening the European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy. Denise is a qualified solicitor, holds an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice from Northumbria Law School England, and a BCL (International) degree from University College Cork Ireland. Prior to joining SAR Europe in July 2020, she held positions at the National Women's Council, the Law Reform Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Irish Mission to the United Nations in New York, and acted as a Judicial Fellow of the High Court. Previously she served as co-rapporteur of

the Feminism and International Law Committee of the International Law Association and was a committee member of the Irish Women Lawyers' Association.

Academic Freedom in the World Today - Academic freedom is indispensable for quality research, teaching, and learning. The free and open pursuit of ideas flourishes when the higher education sector operates safely and independently. Yet, this freedom is being eroded worldwide, and has reached a crisis point in many countries, with tragic consequences for the individual scholars affected. The data from Scholars at Risk's recent Free to Think Report, and the global Academic Freedom Index, highlight the diversity of challenges we face in protecting and preserving this universal right. In the last year alone, there has been encouraging recognition of the need to act - the European Higher Education Area, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations, have all laid foundations for academic freedom protections. However, for these initiatives to be successful, meaningful implementation is required. Today, we will reflect on the state of academic freedom, and how we can collectively work to preserve it.

Martin Irwin | University of Glasgow



Having completed a PhD in a completely unrelated field, He now works in Widening Access at the University of Glasgow. At the University of Glasgow, they with over 5000 prospective applicants each year, helping them to develop the skills they need to gain entry to, and to thrive at, university. His primary role is a systems/database developer, writing and maintaining systems to manage our data and to help the team carry out its work. As named contact for forced migrant students, He also works closely with potential applicants and existing students of the University who are in, or have been through, the UK asylum system. He offers bespoke advice & guidance to the people He supports, and also often advocate on their behalf by putting their case to internal colleagues and to external organisations. Martin also works with colleagues across the University to develop new initiatives that offer pathways and support to people in our local forced-migrant community.'

Widening Access to Forced Migrants Students will briefly set out the situation in the Glasgow area and then give an overview of Martin's work as a named contact for our forced migrant community. The circumstances in which people in this community are living are often very challenging, and their situation is routinely made more difficult by hostile government policy. Therefore people often have very complicated personal circumstances, which require individualised support.

Serena Galazzi | UNESCO-TWAS



Sena Galazzi is Associate Programme Officer at UNESCO-TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences), where she works across programmes in scientific capacity building and science policy/diplomacy. Sena is in the final stages of her PhD in International Politics at SOAS, University of London. Sena's background is in International Development, Law, and Politics, with a thematic specialisation in sustainable development, migration and education. Before joining UNESCO-TWAS in 2019, Sena was based in Myanmar having earlier served in a variety of research and project management roles across the United Kingdom, Thailand, and Malaysia.

The Science in Exile Initiative - Conflicts, violence, human rights violations and climate change displace untold numbers of people from their homes and countries. Among them are scientists, doctors, engineers and others with technical training. This talk will provide an overview of the Science in Exile (SiE) initiative launched in March 2021 by UNESCO-TWAS, ISC and IAP, the result of groundwork laid since 2017. The initiative aims to create a network of like-minded organizations that work together to develop a global platform and roll out a coordinated advocacy campaign, in order to foster a cohesive response for the support and integration of refugee, displaced and at-risk scientists. This goal is key to support such scientists in staying up-to-date in their field, maintain meaningful careers, and be in a position to help rebuild their countries, once conditions allow. Until then, these professionals can be valuable assets for the countries in which they arrive. Two thirds of displaced migrants come from just five countries, including countries with some of the world's most poorly funded science institutes and systems. Today, Science in Exile brings together almost a hundred displaced scientists and about 50 stakeholders worldwide, including international organizations, universities, research institutions and science academies, and organizations specialized in supporting at-risk, displaced and refugee scholars.

Delphine Dieudonné | Université Libre de Bruxelles



Delphine Dieudonné studied political sciences in Belgium completed by an educational Master in Bordeaux, France. She has been working at ULB for two years as manager of the International Welcome Desk. More precisely She is in charge of welcoming international researchers and of the Solidarity Funds program.

The Project called "Solidarity Funds" has been created in order to provide support for researchers who no longer have the freedom to pursue their research in their home country, where they are threatened due to the content of their scientific work or to the opinions they have freely expressed.

Giuliana Scognamiglio | Sapienza University of Rome



Giuliana Scognamiglio graduated in Law at the Sapienza University of Rome in December 1978 with honors. In 1984 she obtained an assistant professor position at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Faculty of Law. In 1987 she won a position as Associate Professor of Commercial law and was called to teach this discipline at the University of Teramo (Italy), Faculty of Political Sciences. In 1990 she completed her academic career, gaining a position as Full Professor of Commercial law at the University of Teramo, Faculty of Law. From 1995 until 2011 she was Full Professor of Commercial law at the Sapienza University of Rome, Faculty of Political Sciences; in 2012 she has gained the chair of Commercial law at the Faculty of Law of the same University, where she currently teaches Commercial law, Company law, Banking law and Insolvency law. She is a lawyer qualified to practice before the higher courts. She is a member of the editorial board of some scientific journals specialized in commercial law (*Rivista di diritto privato*, *Giurisprudenza commerciale*, *Orizzonti del diritto commerciale*), which have been classified by the Italian research evaluation authority as journals of excellence. She is the author of numerous scientific publications focusing on diverse issues of company, insolvency and banking law. On behalf of the Ministry of Justice, she has advised the Italian Government in the drafting of several statutes

in the field of company law and business crisis regulation. Since 2015, she has been a member of a committee of scholars appointed to support the Italian accounting body in its institutional activity of developing national accounting standards.

 Florian Kohstall | Freie Universität Berlin



Florian Kohstall is head of the “Global Responsibility” Program at Freie Universität Berlin. He is the founder and Director of Academics in Solidarity, a transnational peer-to-peer mentoring program for displaced scholars. Kohstall earned his PhD on “Higher Education Reforms in Egypt and Morocco” from Science Po Aix-en-Provence and Freie Universität. He taught Political Science in Lyon, Aix-en-Provence and Cairo and built up the Freie Universität Berlin’s Liaison Office in Cairo.

Academics in Solidarity - Establishing yourself as a scholar in a new academic environment needs a lot of passion and patience and it needs a certain familiarity with the formal and informal codes of getting promoted. This is especially true for displaced scholars who often have seen their career violently interrupted by war and displacement or infringements on academic freedom. Academics in Solidarity is a peer-to-peer mentoring program that matches displaced scholars with qualified academic mentors. Through this mentorship the informal and formal codes become more “accessible”. But in addition to this, mentees and mentors can engage in joint research or teaching projects and construe a long-term path for career development in or outside academia. The project provides training and funding to develop the research and ideas and promotes them through formats like AiS Policy.

For more information www.academicinsolidarity.net

 Joe Carthy | University College Dublin



Professor Joe Carthy was College Principal and Dean of Science at UCD for 10 years until August 2021. He leads the UCD in the Community initiative at UCD and also chairs UCD’s Employee Engagement Committee. He was the founding Director of the UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation and was a member of the Irish government’s Internet Content Governance Advisory Group. Professor Carthy has a strong record in winning funding for research. He has also supervised/co-supervised 34 Research students to completion and is the author of a series of scientific publications and one undergraduate textbook.

Practical steps in Supporting Scholars Risk - UCD Case study - This presentation examines the practical steps a university needs to take to identify and support an incoming scholar at risk. This includes working with international NGOs to identify scholars; identifying the appropriate university department/school to host the scholar; supporting the scholar in the daily living logistics from accommodation, transport to schools for children and finally the financial costs to the university.