



NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM

A COMMUNITY FOR ENDANGERED AND EXILED SCHOLARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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"THE NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM ALLOWED ME TO CONTINUE TO WORK FREELY IN A PLACE THAT IS A SAFE HAVEN FOR SCHOLARS FROM ALL FIELDS, A PLACE THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO REGAIN ACADEMIC FREEDOM, TO EXPRESS IDEAS AND INTERACT WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY. I WAS WELCOMED BY THE CONSORTIUM WITH OPEN ARMS AND QUICKLY LEARNED THAT GENEROSITY IS AT THE **HEART OF THIS PROGRAM** WHOSE MISSION HELPS TO STRENGTHEN SCHOLARSHIP AND ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE."

- CONSORTIUM SCHOLAR, 2020

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



In 2008, we welcomed Befekadu Degefe, an Ethiopian Professor of Economics to The New School as our first hosted endangered scholar. Befekadu was forced to flee Ethiopia, where he had been imprisoned and continued to be under attack. With the help of a generous donor, The New School was able to offer him a temporary and safe academic home, but it was not long before I realized that despite the safety we offered, he was living in a second kind of exile. Exile first from his home country, and now within The New School community. On his arrival, he was welcomed by the department, but the introductory meetings and lunches soon ended, and he was on his own with little connection to the intellectual life of the university. This same pattern repeated itself for several more hosted scholars, and I realized that though these scholars were certainly fortunate to have escaped dangerous situations in their home countries, as were the other endangered scholars I had gotten to know who were hosted by other universities, there was still much to be done to support them as they adjusted to their new circumstances. That is why in September of 2018, I and three colleagues at The New School launched the New University in Exile Consortium.

Over the past two years, the Consortium has grown to include 18 other universities and colleges, each of which is committed to hosting at least one endangered-exiled scholar each year and together, we have created a vibrant exiled scholar community. As you will read, the Consortium has developed programs and activities designed to lessen the profound sense of loss and disruption exiled scholars face. Our hosted scholars meet regularly both online and in-person, and have become professional and personal supports for one another.

Today, our mission is more important than ever given the uncertainties of COVID-19. As we continue to cope with the isolation imposed upon us by the virus, we are reminded of the unending loneliness that each of our hosted endangered exiled scholars inevitably face. Unfortunately, for many of these scholars, there is little hope that they will be able to return home to their academic positions, friends, and family even after the virus abates.

With this in mind, we will steadfastly continue alongside our partners and friends, to support the scholars forced out of their universities, their communities and their homes. I am grateful to my colleagues at The New School, to our member institutions, and to the funders who have made the Consortium a reality. Looking ahead, I hope many more colleges and universities will join our ranks, and support endangered exiled scholars for as long as the Consortium is needed.

Breen Mack

Arien Mack

Alfred and Monette Marrow Professor of Psychology Editor, Social Research: An International Quarterly Director, Center for Public Scholarship Founder & Director, New University in Exile Consortium

MISSION

Our mission is to create an intellectual community among exiled scholars, scholars who have been persecuted and forced to flee. We work to lessen the profound loss of identity and dislocation from which they suffer and which adversely impacts their intellectual and personal lives. It is the condition of exile we hope to alleviate through our activities.

The Consortium is a membership organization. Its members are institutions of higher education that are strongly committed to the idea that the academic community has both the responsibility and capacity to assist persecuted and endangered scholars, to help protect the intellectual resources that are jeopardized when universities and scholars are under assault, and to advocate for academic freedom around the world.

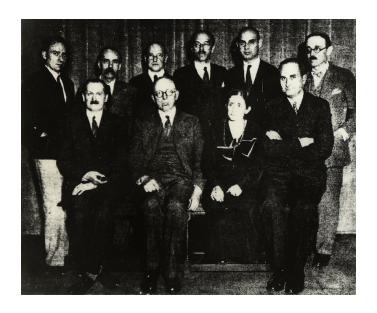


New School publicity scrapbook collection 1931-1943; originally printed in Jewish Welfare Magazine, date unknown

HISTORY

The original University in Exile was created in 1933 by The New School's first President, Alvin Johnson, to provide a safe intellectual home for German, largely Jewish, threatened scholars and intellectuals living under the growing threat of Nazism in Europe. With great difficulty and perseverance, Johnson managed to bring nearly 200 out of danger to the United States. 18 of them remained at The New School, while he helped to find new academic homes for the others. The New School, with President Johnson at the helm, stood as a beacon against brutal policies that undermined the independence of thought and research upon and for which universities are founded.

Building on this legacy, eighty-five years later, the **New University in Exile Consortium** was launched at The New School to address the challenges of the present day.



University in Exile First Semester in New York New York Times, October 4, 1933

OUR MODEL

The New School is the founder and the administrative home of the New University in Exile Consortium. Our current members are higher education institutions who host at least one endangered exiled scholar.







Members

Scholar Countries of Origin

Areas of Expertise

Amherst College
Barnard College
Brown University
Columbia University
Connecticut College
George Mason University
Georgetown University
The New School
Rutgers University
SUNY Farmingdale
Trinity College
Union College
University of Connecticut
University of Pittsburgh
Wayne State University
Wellesley College

Wesleyan University
Yale University

Azerbaijan
Brazil
Cambodia
China
India
Iran
Iraq
Syria
Turkey
Ukraine
Venezuela

Anthropology
Filmmaking
Economics
Hydrology
Law
Museum Curation
Medical Science
Philosophy
Poetry
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology

We have begun the process of globalizing the Consortium by creating a network of Consortium Centers in different regions of the world that are linked to each other and to our base at The New School. By extending the network of exiled scholars we will not only provide formerly untapped possibilities for collaboration, but also increase our understanding and the understanding of the scholars themselves, about how attacks on universities and scholars play out in different regions, and how they might best be opposed.

"WE KNOW THAT THREATS AND CRACKDOWNS ON SCHOLARS HAVE INCREASED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEREFORE, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO SET UP AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SUPPORT BETWEEN DIFFERENT INITIATIVES THAT FOCUS ON THE SAME GOALS."

- CONSORTIUM SCHOLAR, 2020

PROGRAMS

New University in Exile Consortium programs are meant to instill a sense of belonging to an intellectual community and to decrease the sense of isolation and dislocation which exiled scholars suffer. Whether meeting online or in-person, we provide frequent opportunities for our scholars to connect and engage with each other and with the global academic community. Our programs foster intellectual dialogues around global threats to academic freedom, identity and exile, and other subjects of mutual interest, as well as provide an opportunity for collaborative research and teaching.

Weekly Scholars' Seminar:

Each week, Consortium Scholars met online for a two-hour seminar led by Judith Friedlander, former Dean of the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science at the New School for Social Research, and author of a <u>A Light in Dark Times: The New School for Social Research and Its University in Exile</u>. The Seminar served as a weekly gathering place for both intellectual and personal connection. The theme, chosen by the scholars, was "Exile, Identity and Politics." During the Seminar, we welcomed several guest speakers nominated by the scholars themselves including:

- Julie Trébault, Director, Artists at Risk Connection (ARC), PEN America
- Eylem Sen, Turkish filmmaker
- Yassin al-Haj Saleh, Syrian political writer

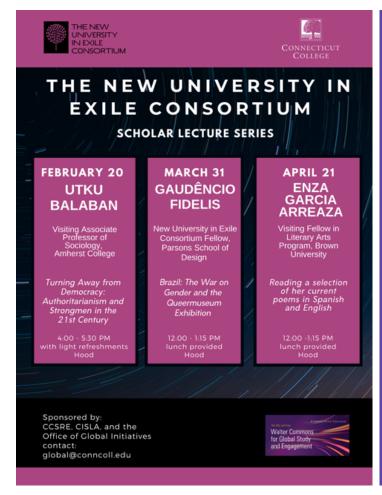
"The consortium has been a great opportunity to engage, discuss and think together with fellow activist scholars on pressing issues in the contemporary world. I have enjoyed great discussions and learned a great deal from my fellow scholars each time. It also made me realise that a small group of people, or even one person, can contribute to the development of rights and human conditions."

- Consortium Scholar, 2020

Lecture Series:

The Consortium facilitates lectures and conference participation by scholar members at Consortium schools other than their own. These lectures provide Consortium scholars opportunities to present their work to new audiences, and to discuss the conditions surrounding universities in their home countries. The lectures call attention to the increasingly egregious attacks on academic freedom, and introduce a new and valuable perspective to faculty, students, and the local public.

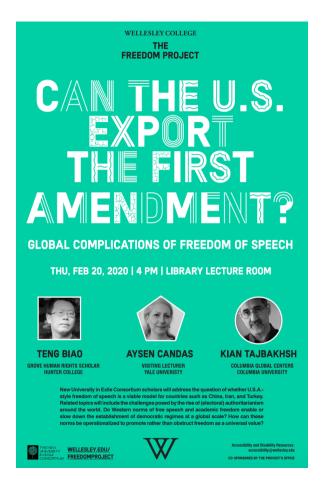
In the 2019-2020 academic year, Consortium Scholars gave **14 lectures** at member institutions including **The New School, Trinity College, Wesleyan College,** and **University of Pittsburgh**. An additional seven lectures were scheduled, but have been postponed or canceled due to COVID-19.

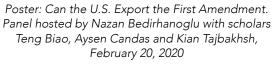


Poster: A New University in Exile and Walter Commons Lecture series. Featuring scholars Utku Balaban, Gaudêncio Fidelis, and Enza Garcia Arreaza. March 31 and April 21 lectures were postponed due to COVID-19



Poster: QueerMuseum: Art & Resistance in Contemporary Brazil. Talk by Gaudêncio Fidelis at Columbia University. The April 6 lecture was postponed due to COVID-19







Consortium Scholars speak at University of Pittsburgh, February 20, 2020

"Since coming to the United States, I have been affiliated with the Consortium. When you leave your country, it means that you also leave behind your intellectual, cultural and social circle. That is very tough, particularly early on in exile. It is not easy to make contacts or be invited into academic circles that are almost completely unfamiliar to you. In this respect, the Consortium has provided the intellectual oasis that we can discuss and exchange our opinions with the other exiled scholars or guest speakers we have at times. Indeed, this is a big relief and I am glad to have joined this multidisciplinary circle from which I have learned many things."

- Consortium Scholar, 2020

Scholar Conference:

Each spring, The New School hosts a public Consortium Scholars Conference, at which the scholars present their work to the public. Designed by the scholars each year, these conferences provide a platform for scholars to present their work to the broader community and call attention to threats to academic freedom.

The spring 2020 Scholars Conference titled "Repression and Resistance: Inside and Outside the Academy" was scheduled for April 30, 2020, but has been postponed due to COVID-19. Eight Consortium scholars were slated to speak. Among the subjects of their talks were:

- Repression and Resistance in the Context of Higher Education in Turkey
- Is Resistance Possible in China's High-Tech Totalitarianism?
- The Ideological Crisis of Unsuccessful Revolutions
- The Truth of an Exhibition: Queermuseum against Fascist Politics in Brazil

The conference was to include a keynote talk by Judith Butler, renowned philosopher and gender theorist, and Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley. We will announce a new conference date as soon as possible.



Consortium Scholars and Director, front left, at The New School, 2019

"For me, the Consortium is an inspiring project that constantly shows that understanding and support are necessary in times when democracies and human rights are facing tremendous challenges. It's good to see when people really care about the actual state of things in the world."

- Consortium Scholar, 2020

Annual Consortium Summer Retreat:

Our summer retreat is a tradition carried on from the original University in Exile.



Scholars Retreat 1937, Barbecue at Old Mill, University in Exile



Scholars Retreat 2019 at Connecticut College, New University in Exile Consortium

Each summer, a Consortium member institution hosts our annual summer retreat for Consortium Scholars, their families, and institutional liaisons. The retreat is an important opportunity for scholars and liaisons to spend time with one another in person and to plan activities for the coming academic year. Our second retreat was planned for July 14-16, 2020, at Trinity College, but it has been postponed due to COVID-19.

Mellon Doctoral Fellowships

With the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The New School for Social Research hosted **2 Doctoral Fellows** in the 2019-2020 academic year. Fellowships are designed for students who are citizens of countries where intellectual freedom has been threatened or their studies limited as a result of political conditions. In addition to their academic study, Fellows participated in activities organized by the New University in Exile Consortium. Next fall, we will welcome a third Mellon Fellow to The New School.

Co-led Online Seminars:

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Consortium hosted **2 co-led online seminars**. They were each led by one Consortium scholar alongside a stranded scholar from their home country (a scholar who has been fired and is unable to leave their home country). The seminars connected stranded scholars to the academic community that they lost, reconnected students with their professors, and offered learning opportunities to students everywhere that otherwise might not be available. Thus far, these seminars were co-sponsored with **Off-University**, free, and open to students everywhere.

FALL 2020:

"THE SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF
NEOLIBERAL AUTHORITARIANISM:
THE CASE OF TURKEY"

CO-LED BY
NAZAN BEDIRHANOĞLU AND
ELÇIN AKTOPRAK

SPRING 2020:

"HOMELESSNESS AND HOMEMAKING:
ON DIFFERENT MEANINGS
OF HOME SPACE"

CO-LED BY
UTKU BALABAN AND
AYSEN KUCUKKIRCA

In the 2020-2021 academic year, we anticipate hosting at least **6 co-led online seminars** and we have invited the displaced scholars hosted by Columbia Global Centers, Amman, Jordan to propose seminars they are interested in co-leading.

SOURCEBOOK

In April 2020, we launched the SourceBook, a searchable database of resources for endangered scholars and students. The SourceBook is global in scope, organized by field, and includes fellowships, scholarships, professional opportunities, legal resources, language resources, and mental health services. We welcome suggestions for additional resources. Please email suggestions to uieconsortium@newschool.edu

Access the SourceBook on our website here: https://newuniversityinexileconsortium.org/sourcebook/

"I PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THAT THE CONSORTIUM EMBRACES THE NOTION OF "EXILE," WHICH I FIND TO BE A MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF RECONCILING THE EXPERIENCE OF EXILE THAN APPROACHES THAT TRY TO OVERCOME IT BY SUPPRESSING IT LINGUISTICALLY AND, THUS, COGNITIVELY. OF COURSE, CARVING OUT A SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF DEBATE IS ESSENTIAL TO DEMOCRACY AS SUCH, AND THIS IS SOMETHING MANY EXILES KNOW TOO WELL."

- CONSORTIUM SCHOLAR, 2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2019-2020 YEAR AT A GLANCE





9 RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS





38 PRESENT--ATIONS ON DIVERSE TOPICS

"When COVID-19 forced our faculty to teach remotely, our hosted scholar handled this shift without incident or complaint and provided other members of the faculty with useful advice and types to aid them in their efforts."

- Consortium Liaison, 2020

In the 2019-2020 academic year Consortium scholars taught 31 courses at their host institutions, including:

- Fall 2019: "Human Rights in China" at Hunter College
- Fall 2019: "Discourses on Toil: The Condition of Labor and Work in the Post-Fordist Society" at Amherst College
- Winter 2019: "Fascism and Neofascism" at Union College
- Spring 2020: "Transnational Islam and Muslim Communities" at Yale University
- Spring 2020: "Topics in Comparative Politics Social Movements" at Rutgers University



Consortium Scholar with students at Rutgers University

Awards & Recognition:

With our support, **9 of the Consortium Scholars** received awards, grants, fellowships, and special recognitions during the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Fall 2019, Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) Global Academy Award fellowship to a displaced scholar from the MENA region to attend meetings, workshops and conferences.
- Fall 2019, Allan Rosenfield Scholars Scholarship, Columbia University this need-based scholarship, established in 2004, is awarded annually to outstanding students pursuing a doctoral degree or performing post-doctoral research in the field of public health.
- Spring 2020, Reagan-Fascell Fellowship, National Endowment for Democracy the Fellows Program hosts democracy activists, scholars, and journalists for five-month fellowships, bringing fresh insights and perspectives to Washington, DC. The fellowship offers an important opportunity to explore new ideas in a comparative context, undertake individual research, and share best practices with one another.
- Fall 2020, PAUSE Fellowship The PAUSE program awards stimulus funding to higher education establishments and public research organizations who plan to host scientists at risk, and supports their activities. The awardee will be hosted by University of Paris 8, Vincennes.



November 2019: "US Withdrawal: Implications for the Syrian Kurds and Middle East Politics," Fletcher School of Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA

Publications:

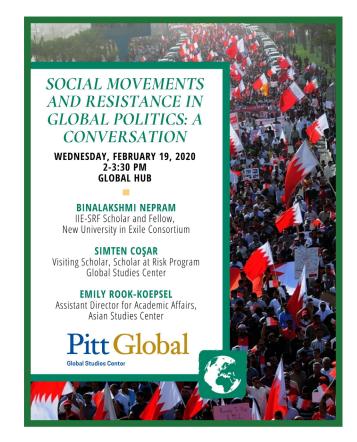
In 2019-2020 Consortium Scholars published 65 works. Among them were:

- Gubad Ibadoghlu, "The Current State of the Pension System in Azerbaijan: Challenges and Prospects," Caucasus Analytical Digest No. 113, Spring 2020.
- Selin Bengi Gümrükçü, "Far-right Political Violence in Turkey in the 1970s," Terrorism and Political Violence, Spring 2020.
- Saladdin Ahmed, "COVID-19: Communism or Fascism," TELOSscope, Spring 2020.
- Kian Tajbakhsh, "My Prison Reading," New York Review of Books, September 6, 2019.

Public Presentations:

In the 2019-2020 academic Consortium Scholars made **38 presentations** on topics ranging from:

- "Human Rights in China Today," at The University Southern California
- "Breaking the Border: Experiences of Kurds in the Middle East," at Trinity College
- "The future of peace in Northern Ireland: The effects of Brexit on the multifaceted nature of GFA and national identities," at Columbia University
- "The Interplay of Populism with Mobilization: Case of Turkey," at Georgetown University





Public Presentation by Consortium Scholar at The New School, 2020

Words from our Institutional Members:

Hosting an endangered exiled scholar is the most significant way our member institutions support the mission of the Consortium. Hosting an endangered exiled scholar is also of great benefit to the institution itself, and brings a new perspective to the community. Hosted scholars have experience teaching in many different settings. Their expertise may expand the department, and their presence may lead to new opportunities for off-campus community engagement.

"Our hosted scholar has been an engaged member of the department. Despite being on a one-year appointment, he has attended every department meeting, even when it was clear that the issue at hand would be unlikely to affect him. He also attends lectures, presentations, and colloquia given by other faculty members at the College."

- Consortium Liaison, 2020

"In the past academic year, our hosted scholar has become a valued member of the political science department. The courses he offered were intellectually rich and challenging.

Students evaluated these courses favorably, which can be more challenging in the political theory subfield, and appreciated how interactive the classes were, and note that they have grown intellectually."

- Consortium Liaison, 2020

"Our scholar is a valued member of our teaching staff, teaching post-Advanced Arabic content courses to students from different majors and degree programs at Georgetown and other universities (Georgetown is a member of "The Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area"; thus, students from other DC. VA. and MD universities have also enrolled in his Georgetown classes). The courses he teaches are driven both by student interest, as well as by program assessment of student needs."

- Consortium Liaison, 2020

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to acknowledge and thank each of the Institutional Liaisons who support the New University in Exile Consortium and our scholar-members.

- Stephen Angle, Director, Fries Center for Global Studies; Mansfield Freeman Professor of East Asian Studies; Professor of Philosophy, Wesleyan University
- Rochelle Davis, Associate Professor; Director, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS), Georgetown University
- Giorgio DiMauro, Dean for International and Global Strategy
- Amy Dooling, Associate Dean of Global Initiatives; Director of The Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement; Professor of Chinese, Connecticut College
- Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs; Senior Associate to the President for Special Initiatives, Wayne State University
- Kyle Farmbry, Dean of the Graduate School–Newark; Associate Professor at the School of Public

Affairs and Administration (SPAA), Rutgers University-Newark

- Jennifer Fredricks, Dean of Academic Departments and Programs, Union College
- Michael Goodhart, Director, Global Studies Center; Co-President, Association for Political Theory; Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
- Paul Hersh, Director, Strategic Planning and Initiatives, Columbia University
- Rick Lee, Director of Global Programs and Partnerships at Rutgers Global, Rutgers University
- Kathryn Libal, Director, Human Rights Institute; Associate Professor, Social Work & Human Rights, University of Connecticut
- **Safwan Masri**, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia Unviersity
- Garth Myers, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban International Studies; Director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies, Trinity College
- Yetunde A. Odugbesan-Omede, Visiting Assistant Professor of Global Affairs and Politics, Farmingdale State College
- Marisa Quinn, Chief of Staff to the Provost, Brown University
- Mark Rozell, Founding Dean, Schar School of Policy and Government; Ruth D. and John T. Hazel chair in public policy, George Mason University
- Andrew Shennan, Provost and Lia Gelin Poorvu '56 Dean of the College; Professor of History, Wellesley College
- Adam Sitze, Professor of Law, Jurisprudence, Social Thought, and Black Studies, Amherst College
- Janine Wedel, University Professor, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University
- Steven Wilkinson, Nilekani Professor of India and South Asian Studies; Professor of Political Science and International Affairs; Professor in the Institution for Social and Policy Studies; Henry R. Luce Director, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University

THANK YOU

The New University in Exile Consortium is grateful for support from:

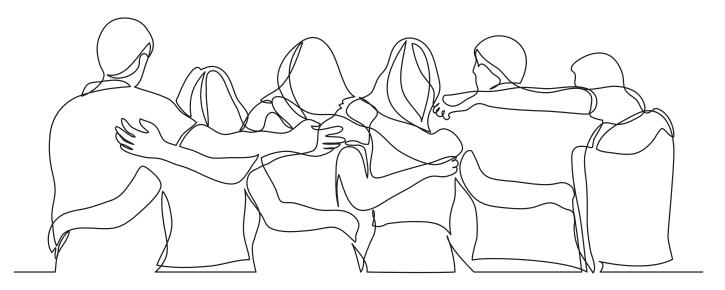
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The Arnhold Foundation
The Carnegie Corporation of New York
Open Society Foundations

We would also like to thank the individual donors who have made our work possible.

DONATE

We need your support!

The New University in Exile Consortium relies on donations to continue our work supporting scholars. Your contribution will go directly towards the programming and activities described above. Tax deductible donations can be made on our website: www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org



JOINING THE CONSORTIUM

We hope many universities and colleges will join this effort to assist scholars who are under attack. Whether you are currently hosting a scholar or would like to host a scholar in the near future, your institution can become a member of the New University in Exile Consortium. Our members commit to:

- 1. Hosting and supporting at least one exiled and/or endangered scholar, selected by your institution, for two years with the understanding that a re-evaluation will take place at the end of the first year. (If you are currently hosting an endangered scholar, that would qualify.)
- 2. Identifying a campus liaison to represent your institution and work with the New University in Exile Consortium.
- 3. Providing scholars with modest funding for travel and lodging to attend programs hosted by The New School.

"We have identified a scholar whom we would like to host in the fall. We would not have undertaken this without knowing about the structure and support offered by the NUIEC, and very much look forward to working with you, your colleagues, and other members of the consortium."

-Consortium Liaison, 2020

Endangered Scholar Criteria:

An endangered scholar is defined as anyone with a Ph.D. or equivalent degree who has held a teaching or researcher position in an institution of higher education beyond graduate school and has faced or recently fled from severe and targeted threats to their lives and/or careers in their home countries or countries of residence.

LEADERSHIP

Founder & Director:

Dr. Arien Mack, Alfred and Monette Marrow Professor of Psychology; Editor, Social Research: An International Quarterly; Director, Center for Public Scholarship; Founder & Director, New University in Exile Consortium

Associate Director:

Nicole Tuszynski, Associate Director, New University in Exile Consortium

Steering Committee:

- T. Alexander Aleinikoff, Professor at The New School for Social Research, and Director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility
- Richard Bernstein, Vera List Professor of Philosophy, The New School for Social Research
- **Elzbieta Matynia**, Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies at The New School for Social Research, and Director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies

Advisory Board:

- Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University
- Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley
- Craig Calhoun, University Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University
- Jerome Cohen, Professor of Law at New York University, Director of US-Asia Law Institute
- Jonathan Fanton, President emeritus of American Academy of Arts & Sciences
- Masha Gessen, staff writer at The New Yorker
- Hadi Ghaemi, Executive Director, Center for Human Rights in Iran
- Richard Goldstone, former justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa; former chief prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia
- Allan Goodman, President and CEO of Institute of International Education
- Michael Ignatieff, Rector and President of Central European University
- Ann Werner Johnson, Trustee emeritus at Connecticut College
- Alison von Klemperer, Communications Consultant
- Aryeh Neier, President emeritus of Open Society Foundations
- Kenneth Prewitt, Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs, Columbia University
- Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch

