

**NEW  
UNIVERSITY  
IN EXILE  
CONSORTIUM**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

2024-25

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

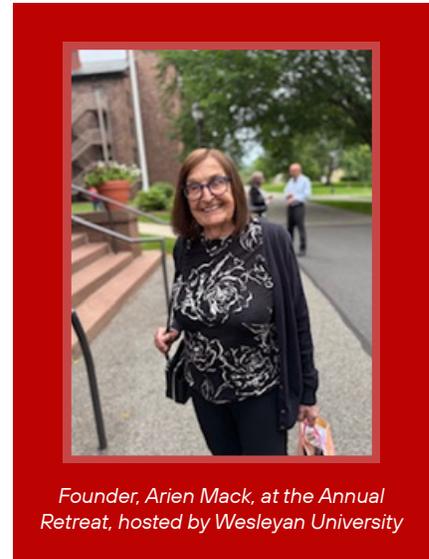
Letter from the Director	1
Join the “Be a Colleague Campaign”	2
Institutional Membership	3
Programs	5
Scholars Forum	6
Scholars Conference & Scholar Meeting	8
Co-led Online Seminars	9
Endangered Scholars Worldwide	12
Special Events	13
Scholar Achievements	18
The Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund for Gazan Students	20
Update about Gubad Ibadoghlu	21
Join the New University in Exile Consortium	22
Acknowledgements & Leadership	23

# Letter from the Director

I write this on the cusp of our 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During these past years we have grown from a small group of 11 universities located in the Northeast of the US to a group of 72 universities located in 30 countries around the world, a number we continuously work to expand. And as the number of our universities increases, so does the size of our threatened scholar cohort which, during the past 7 years, has grown to 300+ scholars. Unfortunately, what also has grown exponentially over these last 7 years is the need for the work we do.

I began my introduction to last year's annual report writing that, "In a most difficult year of war, political repression, and global unrest..." only now to be compelled to write that both the present and the future of threatened scholars and their students, particularly in the US, has become significantly worse. The Trump administration sees universities as the enemy. US universities, which only a year ago were safe havens for threatened scholars from other countries, have become places from which scholars find it necessary to flee in order to protect their precious right to teach and speak out. Only a year ago scholars who were at risk in their home countries came to US universities where they believed they would be welcome and safe. This is no longer the case. In the last few months the Trump administration has issued a long list of countries whose citizens are barred from entering the US and many of these countries are exactly the ones from which scholars find themselves forced to flee.

So, the work we do assisting and helping to protect endangered academics and students becomes more urgent by the day. Happily, we do have a modest share of successes. To name only one, an Afghan Consortium member who worked with the US government in Kabul, was forced to flee with his wife and 3 children to India in 2021. He was consequently at serious risk, and after many years of trying, and with our help, is now miraculously here in the US.



Our co-led, free, online, seminars which are proposed and taught by our scholars continue to provide us with strong evidence of their importance through the robust number of registrations for these courses. This year a total of 3,200+ people from all over the world registered for the 10 courses we offered.

We also launched new initiatives this year. Among them is the "Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund for Gazan Students," that enables 3 students from Gaza to attend the New School. This fund honors the memory of the family of one of our Palestinian members whose sister, her husband, and their 4 children were killed in an Israeli bombing raid in May.

In addition, we are in the process of creating an online certificate program in Gender Studies to be taught by our scholars, and free and open to anyone, anywhere. The program will be primarily designed for registrants in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Iran where courses on gender are not easily accessible and where we think they would have a significant impact.

In the poisoned environment in which we now live here in the US, we must try even harder to expand our membership and continue to advocate as forcibly as possible for academic freedom and to protect the life of the mind through our words and deeds. We cannot do this without your help, and so I ask you to support our work as generously as you can by [donating here](#).

# Join the “Be a Colleague Campaign”

**We cannot do this work without you.**

At the New University in Exile Consortium, our mission is to work with endangered scholars to lessen the profound sense of dislocation that exiled scholars suffer and which adversely impacts their intellectual and personal lives. **Today, Consortium universities and colleges are hosting more than 300 exiled scholars from 30 countries.**

Exiled scholars thrive when their colleagues help them navigate their new academic environments. By joining our **“Be a Colleague Campaign”** you will be providing threatened scholars with the resources they need. Every gift goes entirely to support our programs that help endangered scholars, and we are grateful for gifts in any amount.

**Please consider:**

- 1. Becoming a Sustaining Colleague - \$1,000**
- 2. Becoming a University Colleague - \$3,000**
- 3. Becoming a Consortium Colleague- \$5,000**

**Your gift will support:**

- The hosting of threatened scholars at Consortium member universities
- Weekly Scholars Forum
- Annual Retreat
- Increase the number of free Co-led Online Seminars taught by our scholars
- Maintain the Library Access Initiative for stranded scholars
- Ensure access to pro bono mental health and legal services for our scholars, career planning resources...and much more!

**Please consider “Becoming a Colleague,” and sharing this appeal with others.**

# Institutional Members

## United States

Amherst College  
Arizona State University  
Barnard College  
Binghamton University, State University of New York  
Brown University  
Colorado College  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Miami University  
The New School  
Northeastern University  
Rutgers University  
Trinity College  
Tufts University  
Tulane University  
Union College  
University of Connecticut  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Dakota  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
Wayne State University  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University  
Wheaton College  
Williams College  
Yale University

## Newest Members



## Join Us!

If your institution is interested in becoming a member of the Consortium, please email us at **uieconsortium @ newschool.edu** to start the process.

# Institutional Members

## Bangladesh

Asian University for Women

## Canada

McGill University

Queen's University

University of Alberta

University of British Columbia

## France

Université Paris Nanterre

Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis

## Germany

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Freie Universität Berlin

Goethe Universität Frankfurt

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Philipps-Universität Marburg

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-

Universität Bonn

Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Technische Universität Dortmund

Technische Universität Dresden

Universität Bremen

## Ireland

Maynooth University

Trinity College Dublin

## Italy

Università degli Studi di Padova

Università degli Studi di Trento

## Jordan

Columbia University Global Center Amman

Philadelphia University

## Lithuania

European Humanities University

## Netherlands

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

## Poland

Kozminski University

Uniwersytet Dolnośląski DSW Wrocław

## South Africa

Durban University of Technology (Affiliate)

Nelson Mandela University (Affiliate)

Stellenbosch University

University of Johannesburg

University of Kwazulu-Natal (Affiliate)

University of Pretoria (Affiliate)

## Spain

Universitat de Barcelona

## Sweden

Karolinska Institutet

## Switzerland

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Université de Genève

## United Kingdom

Birkbeck University

London School of Economics and Politics

Open University

# Programs

## Scholars' Forum

Each week, Consortium Scholars meet online for 90 minutes to discuss their stories, their challenges and other matters of mutual concern. The Forum serves as a weekly gathering place for both intellectual and personal connection. This year we were extremely pleased that the forum was led by one of our own scholar members and this will be the case going forward.

## Annual Scholars' Conference

Each spring, Consortium Scholars organize and participate in a **public academic conference**. These conferences provide a platform for scholars to present their work to the broader academic community, and **call attention to threats to academic freedom**.

## Co-Led Online Seminars

The Consortium Co-Led Online Seminar program is designed to reconnect endangered scholars with the academic community and to reengage students from around the world with professors they have lost. Each seminar is taught by two endangered scholars – one who is a Consortium member and the other a threatened colleague that they identify. The seminars are free and open to anyone anywhere in the world, and have registrations in the hundreds.

## Scholar Events

Each year, we host a number of in-person and online events to build our community and showcase the work of our hosted, threatened scholars including an annual retreat, a year-end meeting and other events.

## Library Access Initiative

The Consortium, through its participating member universities, provide **online library access** to stranded scholars who do not have access to vital academic resources and research material. This year, libraries at The New School, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University provided online library access to **over 20 stranded scholars** with no other way to carry on their research. To read more and to apply, visit our website: <https://bit.ly/40FV5tg>

# Scholars Forum

## A Weekly Online Meeting for Consortium Scholars

### 2024-25

During the 2024-25 academic year, the Scholars' Forum was led by Nazan Bedirhanoglu. This is the first year a Consortium scholar has run our weekly meetings. We are pleased to be able to expand the roles and possibilities for our scholars in this way.

Nazan Bedirhanoglu is a Kurdish sociologist who is an original member of the Consortium, and was forced into exile after signing the 2016 Turkish Peace Petition. She is now an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.



### Looking Forward

During the 2025-2026 academic year, we are pleased that two long-time Consortium Scholar members, **Tomasz Kitliński** and **Paweł Leszkowicz**, will lead the weekly Scholars' Forum. Dr. Kitliński and Dr. Leszkowicz are now both Professors at the Academy of the Arts in Szczecin in Poland.



*"I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire New University in Exile Consortium... for your unwavering efforts to bring together scholars at risk and create such a supportive, resourceful community – especially during these challenging times. It means so much to know there is a space where scholars can find connection, opportunities, and the strength to continue our work despite the obstacles we face. Your dedication, care, and commitment do not go unnoticed – they make all the difference. Thank you again for everything you do to keep this community strong and hopeful. I feel deeply grateful to be part of it."*

- **Consortium Scholar**

# Scholars Forum, Cont.

We had the privilege of welcoming many guest speakers. Among them:



**Dr. Haytham Manna.** A Syrian writer and human rights activist, who led a discussion about the ongoing developments in Syria.



**Steven Schulman & Maka Hutson.** Steven and Maka are both Partners at the law firm, Akin. They spoke to our scholars about their legal concerns including what to do should they be stopped by ICE.



**Chris George.** Former Executive Director (2005-2023) of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, spoke to Consortium Scholars about their immigration and visa concerns.



**Kenneth Roth.** American attorney and human rights activist, and former Executive Director of Human Rights Watch (1993-2022) spoke about global human rights advocacy.



**Dr. Ahmed Bawa,** Former CEO, Universities South Africa, led a conversation about “higher education and the public good.” Dr. Bawa is a member of the Consortium Advisory Board.

# Scholars Conference & Scholar Meeting

The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Consortium Scholars Conference** was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 in Berlin. We were generously hosted by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, a Consortium member. The conference was centered around the theme of **displacement**, with which our scholar members are all too familiar. The speakers critically examined the causes and effects of displacement as well as its impact on freedom of expression, academic freedom, democracy, human rights, gender equity, and public health.

We were fortunate to have award-winning author and human rights advocate, Asli Erdoğan, as our keynote speaker.



**Watch Here.**

**THE NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM** ONLINE AND IN PERSON

## DISPLACEMENT

NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

**TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2025**  
1:00 - 4:00 PM CET

**PROGRAM**  
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION 13:00 CET  
ARLEN MACK, FOUNDING DIRECTOR, NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**  
13:30 CET  
ASLI ERDOĞAN, AUTHOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

**PANEL 1: ARRIVING: REASONS AND CONDITIONS FOR DISPLACEMENT**  
14:00 CET  
MODERATOR: MOUSTAFA ALABSI, INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

**PANELISTS:**  
SALADDIN AHMED, ANDREW MELLON SENIOR FELLOW IN THE HUMANITIES, ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN  
TOMER KATZ, PROFESSOR, ACADEMY OF THE ARTS IN SZCZECIN  
ASLI KOTAMAN, INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR  
PAWEŁ LEZKOWICZ, PROFESSOR, ACADEMY OF THE ARTS IN SZCZECIN  
AZIZ MOHIB, THE SOB RESEARCH FELLOW, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY & TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

**PANEL 2: SETTLING: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**  
15:30 CET  
MODERATOR: SALADDIN AHMED, ANDREW MELLON SENIOR FELLOW IN THE HUMANITIES, ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

**PANELIST:**  
PALVISHA HASAN, SENIOR TECHNICAL AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MINA'S LIST  
SIB NAIKO, RESEARCH SCHOLAR, YALE UNIVERSITY  
ABARAT OBIPIAN, SUSTAINING UKRAINIAN SCHOLARSHIP (BUS-VENUS) FELLOW AT NEW EUROPE COLLEGE, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

**LOCATION:**  
HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN  
SENATE HALL  
UNTER DEN LINDEN 6, 10117 BERLIN

**REGISTER NOW**

**THE NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM** PART OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM WEEK MAR. 31 - APR. 4, 2025

PRESENTED BY THE NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM



While in Berlin, Germany, we also convened a private meeting of Consortium scholars hosted by our European member institutions. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to speak to our members about ways the Consortium might better support their needs; and to spend time with one another in person - something that is special and rare for many of our members.



# Co-led Online Seminars

Since 2019:



During the 2024-25 academic year:



For a complete list of our co-led online seminars offered since 2019, please visit our [\*\*Seminar Archive\*\*](#).

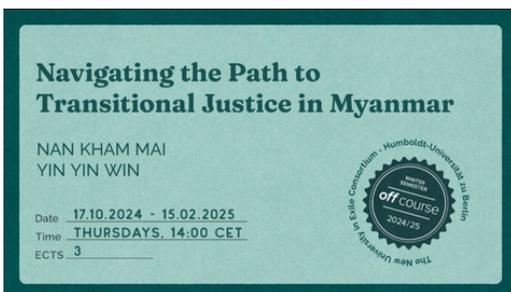
# Fall 2024 Co-led Online Seminars

**Debating Chinese Politics (激辩中国政治)**, co-led by Dr. Teng Biao and Dr. Andrew Nathan; 447 registrants.



**Environmental Justice: Theory, Practice, and Change**, co-led by Dr. Fatih Celebioglu and Dr. Ibrahim Ozdemir; 564 registrants.

**Exploring Global Public Health: Concepts and Challenges**, co-led by Dr. Arash Nemat and Yasir Essar, MSc; 737 registrants.



**Navigating the Path to Transitional Justice in Myanmar**, co-led by Dr. Nan Kham Mai and Dr. Yin Yin Win; co-sponsored by Off University; 81 registrants.

**Women, Peace, and Security in the Afghan Context**, co-led by Palwasha Hassan and Aziz Amin; 406 registrants.



# Spring 2025 Co-led Online Seminars

**Building Bridges: Topics in Arabic Literature in Translation**, co-led by Dr. Amin Ali and Dr. Mohammed Muharram; 281 registrants.



**Human Beings and Society in the Information Hurricane**, co-led by Dr. Dmytro Iarovyj and Dr. Anton Liagusha; 357 registrants.



**Natural and Manmade Hazards Under Changing Environments**, co-led by Dr. Tesfay G. Gebremicael and Dr. Gebremedhin G. Haile; 230 registrants.



**Othering, Social Taboo, and Ethnicity**, co-led by Dr. Adel Dashela and Dr. Safwan Al-Showaiter; cosponsored by Off University; 73 registrants.



**Political Economy of Energy Transition**, co-led by Dr. Leila Alieva and Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu; 230 registrants.



# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Launched prior to the Consortium in 2007, ESW is a website that raises awareness about threats to academics and universities.

The 2024-2025 academic year has been another year of intensifying threats and worsening conditions for universities, scholars, and students. The global rise in authoritarianism has been accompanied by increasing assaults on academic freedom, not only in places like Iran and Afghanistan, but now in the US as well. From Ukraine, to Myanmar, and Gaza, universities struggle to survive against all odds.

## Coverage Highlights



### **Trump's Executive Orders Target Academic Freedom, DEI, and the International Community**

These executive orders targeting higher education in the US signed by President Trump are part of an effort which is damaging the state of education in the country.



### **New Decision Restricts Training Abroad for Afghan Scholars Amid Further Limits on Women's Education**

Recently, a decision by [Taliban] authorities have prohibited women from receiving medical education [...] An estimated 30,000 women receiving medical education [...] were told not to return to school.

# Special Events

## Universities Under Attack Webinar

May 1, 2025

This webinar was focused on the ongoing and increasing attacks on universities. During the webinar, former university presidents Lisa Anderson (American University in Cairo), Lee Bollinger (Columbia University), Nicholas Dirks (UC Berkeley), and Michael Ignatieff (Central European University), participated in a conversation moderated by renowned human rights advocate, Aryeh Neier.

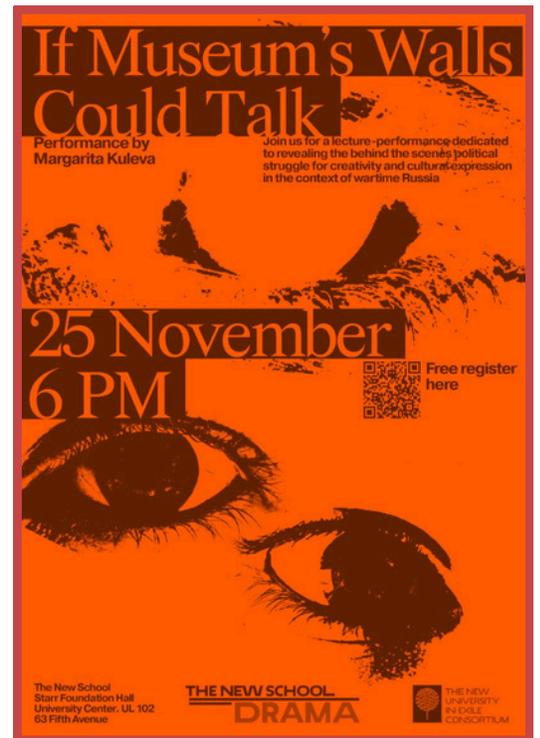
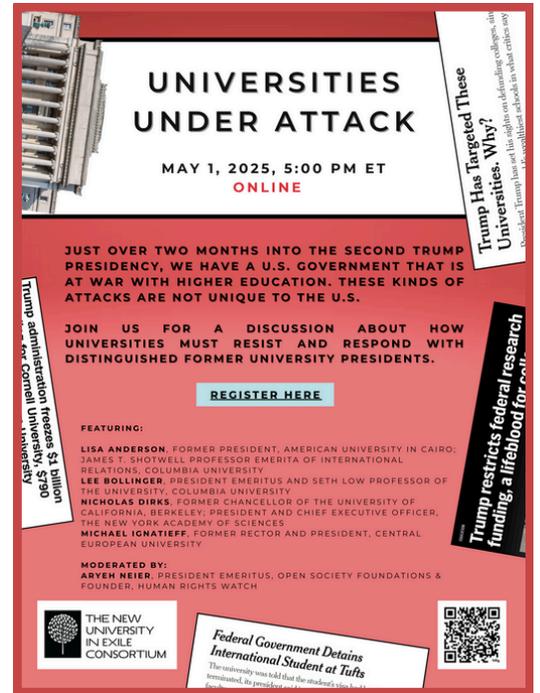


**Watch Here.**

## If Museum's Walls Could Talk

November 25, 2024

In this lecture-performance held at The New School, Russian Consortium scholar, **Margarita Kuleva**, drew attention to **"behind the scenes" political struggle for creativity and cultural expression** in the context of **wartime Russia**. Based on **interviews** with Russian cultural workers and **self-ethnography**, Kuleva's performance highlighted how protest continues under the new wave of censorship and extreme police brutality in Russia.

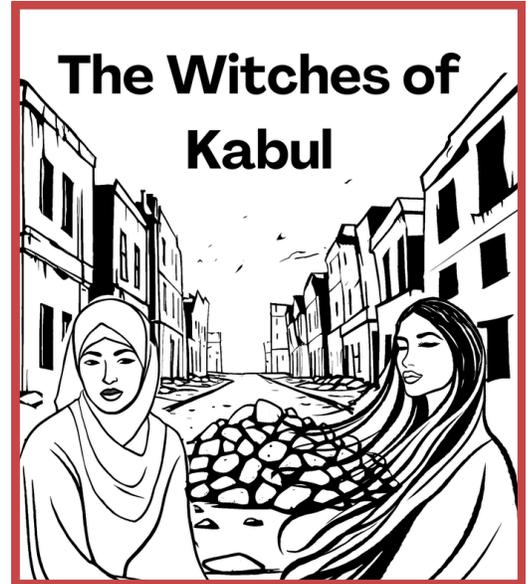


# Special Events, Continued

## The Witches of Kabul

November 20, 2024

The Witches of Kabul, the premiere reading of the new play by Consortium Scholar, Mujib Mehrdad, and Dave Johnson, Associate Teaching Professor at The New School, is based on their translation and stage adaptation of Mehrdad's novella about two young female university scholars whose lives are upended during the collapse of the Afghan government and the violent return of the Taliban to Kabul.



## ArtLords Mural, Union Square

May 9, 2025

"Art has the power to inspire, heal, and transform, and nowhere is this more evident than in the murals created by ArtLords—a grassroots movement born in the heart of Kabul in 2014. From painting messages of peace on Kabul's blast walls to fostering dialogue through art, ArtLords has become a symbol of resilience, hope, and the collective spirit of Afghanistan."

-Kabir Mokamel, Consortium Scholar & Co-Founder, ArtLords



# University in Exile for Afghan Artists

## Welcoming our 2024-25 Fellows

In collaboration with the Artistic Freedom Initiative, the Consortium has **welcomed 6 endangered Afghan artists on fellowships** to the programs and divisions in the arts at The New School. Artists who were hosted in the 2024-2025 academic year are profiled below.

**Waheed Saghar** is an Afghan academic, vocalist, and the former head of the Music Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Kabul University, the only musical program of its kind in Afghanistan. Saghar earned his PhD in Vocal Music in 2017 and has published multiple articles on classical vocal music in Afghanistan and India. His international performances, both solo and as part of a group, include appearances at the Luxembourg Philharmonie, Melody from East Festival, Uzbekistan, as well as events in Finland, Germany, India, and Sweden. Waheed is being hosted by the **Mannes Faculty at the College of Performing Arts** at The New School.



**Fatimah Hossaini** is an acclaimed Afghan-Tehran born artist, award-winning photographer, curator, and founder of the Mastooraat Organization. A recipient of the prestigious Hypatia International Award and honored by the Women's Forum fellow in France as a rising talent and youth ambassador class of 2022. Her vibrant staged photography, which highlights themes of identity and femininity and unseen portraits, particularly within the Afghan experience, has been exhibited worldwide, from solo exhibitions in Europe and Asia to renowned art festivals across Asia, Europe to the USA. Fatimah is being hosted by the **School of Arts, Media, & Technology** at Parsons School of Design.



**Mujib Mehrdad** is a poetry, fiction, and nonfiction writer whose work spans the literary, academic, television, and journalistic fields. He has published many collections of essays and poetry, including "Gladiators Are Still Dying," which won the 2007 Afghan Civil Society's literature contest, and "Dolphin's Alley," which won the Ahmad Shamlou Poetry Award in 2021. Until 2022, Mehrdad served as Editor-in-Chief of the Afghan newspaper, Hasht-e Subh. He is hosted by the **Creative Writing Program** in the **Schools of Public Engagement** at The New School.



# Afghan Artist Showcase

On March 21, 2025, the Consortium hosted a Showcase for Afghan Artists at The New School which was open to the public. The Showcase featured a musical performance by Waheed Saghar, accompanied by New School music students; a display of photography by Fatimah Hossaini; a poetry reading by Mujib Mehrdad; and a keynote conversation between Sahraa Karimi, Fatimah Hossaini, and award-winning Iranian artist, photographer, and filmmaker, Shirin Neshat.

**Afghan Artist Showcase**  
The New University in Exile Consortium  
THE NEW SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS  
2025  
March 21

**FEATURING:**  
FATIMAH HOSSAINI, *Photographer*  
SAHRAA KARIMI, *Filmmaker*  
MUJIB MEHRDAD, *Writer & Poet*  
KABIR MOKAMEL, *Visual Artist*  
WAHEED SAGHAR, *Vocalist*

**IN CONVERSATION WITH**  
SHIRIN NESHAT  
*Award-winning Artist, Filmmaker, & Photographer*

The Auditorium, Room A106  
66 West 12th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
5:00 - 7:30 PM  
Reception to Follow



# Consortium Annual Retreat

Hosted by Wesleyan University



This year, consortium scholars, liaisons, and staff gathered at **Wesleyan University** from June 25 to 27 for the **Consortium Scholars Retreat**.



The three-day program included meetings, presentations, and discussions. Roger Grant, Interim Associate Provost, Dean of Humanities, and Professor of Music at Wesleyan University, delivered a compelling address about threats to academic freedom in the US. The attendees were also treated to a musical performance by Ameen Mokdad, an Iraqi composer, multi-instrumentalist, filmmaker, actor, and interdisciplinary artist whose work fuses music, theater, and activism who is in residence at Wesleyan.



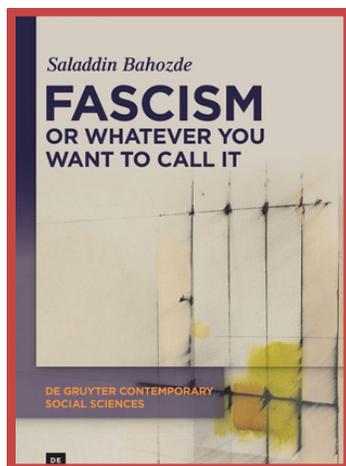
The retreat provides a rare and cherished opportunity for the US members of the Consortium to be together in person. We are immensely grateful to Wesleyan University and its excellent faculty and staff members for their boundless generosity.

*"The meeting was an oasis where members renewed their spirits and research and professional journeys. It provided a platform to discuss academic freedoms in universities and created spaces for criticism and dialogue."*

– Hedaya Shamun-Abdullah & Nael Hijjo



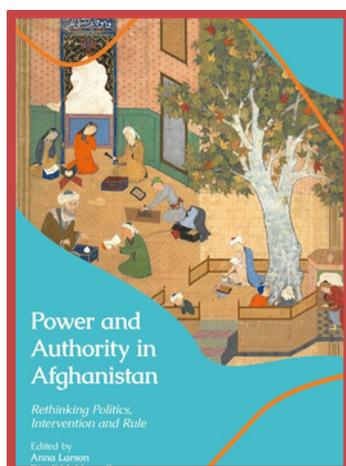
# Scholar Accomplishments



## Scholar Publications

Books and journal articles published by Consortium scholars this year included:

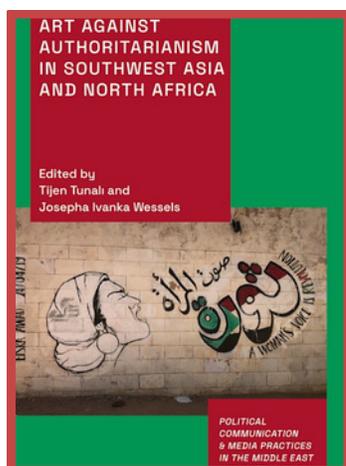
- **Saladdin Bahozde:** *Fascism or Whatever You Want to Call It: Confronting the Beast Locally and Globally*. De Gruyter. 2025.
- **Utku Balaban:** *Industrial Islamism: How Authoritarian Movements Mobilize Workers*. University of California Press, 2025.
- **Ahmad Barakat:** "The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Global Security Threats – A Case Study of Germany," in *Syria Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2023.
- **Adel Dashela:** "Navigating the Crisis of Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Arab Regions: Challenges and Pathways to Reconciliation," in *Biomedical Journal of Scientific & Technical Research*, Vol. 60, Issue 1, 2024.
- **Nael Hijjo, Lai Lanlan & Emily Lau:** "English Translations of Mencius from Three Different Centuries: A progression to More Gender-neutral Language", in *3L: Southeast Asian Journal of English Language Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 1, 2025.
- **Omar Sharifi (editor):** *Power and Authority in Afghanistan: Rethinking Politics, Intervention and Rule*. I.B. Tauris. February 2025.
- **Tijen Tunali (editor):** *Art Against Authoritarianism in Southwest Asia and North Africa*. I.B. Tauris. January 2025.
- **Basileus Zeno:** "The Making of Sects: Boundary Making and the Sectarianisation of the Syrian Uprising, 2011–2013," in *Nations and Nationalism*, Vol. 28, Issue 3, July 2022.



## New Positions and Awards

Consortium scholars received new appointments and awards, including:

- **Sahraa Karimi's** film *Flight From Kabul* received the "Works in Development Award" at the 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.
- **Gebremedhin Haile**, was appointed Frank B. Weeks Visiting Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wesleyan University.
- **Ibrahim Özdemir**, appointed as Vice-President of the American Islamic College, Chicago.
- **Teng Biao** will be a visiting fellow at Trier University and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in the Fall 2025 semester.



# Scholar Accomplishments

## University Courses

Consortium scholars taught courses a variety of courses, including:

- **“Qualitative Research and Methodology”**, Omar Sharifi, University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs.
- **“Borderlands: Karelia and its Population in the Perspective of Political Developments and Lived Reality”**, Ilya Solomeshch, University of Oulu.

## Lectures and Presentations

Academic and artistic events that Consortium scholars participated in included:

- **Teng Biao**, “The Rightward Shift of Chinese Intellectuals and the Division of Liberal Intellectuals”, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), April 4, 2025.
- **Mujib Mehrdad**: “The Witches of Kabul: A Reading with Mujib Mehrdad and Dave Johnson” Creative Writing Program, Schools of Public Engagement, The New School, November 20, 2024, New York, NY.
- **Kabir Mokamel**, “ArtLords Community Mural”, PEN World Voices Festival, April-May 2025, New York, NY.
- **Ararat Osipian**: “World Bank Comes to Ukraine: Improving Higher Education for Results,” New Europe College-Institute for Advanced Study, New Europe Foundation, Bucharest, Romania, July 3, 2024. Virtual.
- **Ilya Solomeshch**: “Re-inventing Finland as an Enemy. Image of Finland vis-à-vis Memory Politics and State Propaganda in Russia, 2014–2025”, Memory, War, and Social Coherence: Bringing Together and Tearing Apart Conference, Mikkeli, Finland, June 2025.

## Media Appearances

Stories and experiences of Consortium scholars were covered by news outlets:

- **Nael Hijo**, coverage on Arabic Language classes at Lincoln Public Schools: “Gaining Global Skills: LPS students benefit from Arabic world language courses”, Lincoln Public Schools, May 2, 2025.
- **Mujib Mehrdad**, interviewed for *USA Today*: Sara Pequeño, “America promised them safety. Now they fear what Trump will do next”, *USA Today*, April 23, 2025.
- **Gubad Ibadoghlu’s** daughter, Zhala Bayramova interviewed by *Democracy Now!* regarding the persisting injustices against Gubad Ibadoghlu and other political prisoners in Azerbaijan: “Daughter of Political Prisoner in Azerbaijan: Gov’t Is Using COP29 as Chance to ‘Enrich the Regime’”, *Democracy Now!*, November 19, 2024.
- **Aziz Mohibbi’s** story was featured in *The Irish Times*, ““All I kept thinking was we had lost everything. I knew my life and my community would totally change””, *The Irish Times*, September 20, 2022.

# The Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund for Gazan Students

On May 17, one of our scholar members, Dr. Nael Hijjo, lost his sister Safa, 35, her husband Mohammed, 38, and their four children, Ahmed, 12, Ayesh, 10, Siwar, 5, and Qosai, 2-months, when they were killed by an Israeli bomb which hit their refugee camp in Gaza. Nael's sister Safa was a teacher and to honor her memory, the Consortium has created the Safa Hijjo Family Memorial Fund for Gazan Students, to help displaced Gazan students continue their education at The New School.

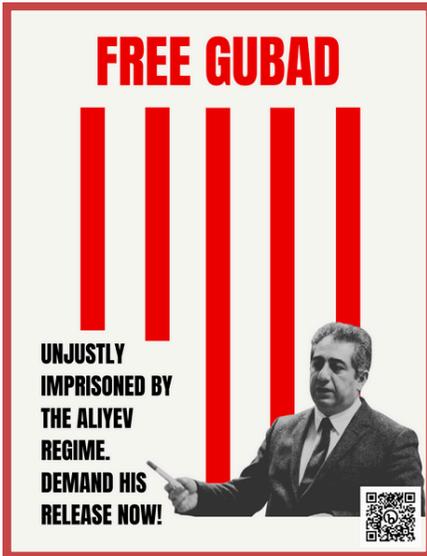


To date, we have been able to provide substantial financial support to three Gazan students whom we helped bring to The New School. While none of us can single-handedly change the circumstances that forced these and many other students and families to flee Gaza, we can help to make their lives in New York and at The New School easier, and more livable.

If you can join our effort to honor the memory of Nael Hijjo's sister and family, please email [UIEConsortium@newschool.edu](mailto:UIEConsortium@newschool.edu). On the subject line please type: Pledge for The Safa Hijjo Family Memorial Fund.

# Gubad Ibadoghlu

Consortium Scholar, Economist, Pro-Democracy Activist remains under house arrest



On July 23, 2023, Consortium scholar and Azeri economist, Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, was **unjustly arrested** on **false charges** by the Aliyev regime in Azerbaijan. He spent **274 days in prison** under incredibly difficult conditions. After months of international pressure and tireless advocacy led by Dr. Ibadoghlu's three children, Dr. Ibadoghlu was released under **house arrest** on April 22, 2024, where he still remains, and where he is unable to get the medical treatment he desperately needs.

Appeals submitted by his legal team have remained unanswered by the Azerbaijani judiciary and authorities. As his **case is currently frozen** with no determined date for a trial, he will remain in **house arrest indefinitely** under the present conditions.



Read more about developments and trends in academic freedom in the latest **Endangered Scholars Worldwide Report** published in the Summer 2025 issue of **Social Research: An International Quarterly**.

# Join the New University in Exile Consortium

**If your institution is interested in becoming a member of the Consortium, please email us at [uieconsortium @ newschool.edu](mailto:uieconsortium@newschool.edu) to start the process.**

## **Becoming a Member**

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:**

- Hosting and supporting at least 1 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.)
- Identifying a liaison person on your campus to represent your institution and work with the New University in Exile Consortium.
- Providing scholars with funding for travel and lodging to attend programs hosted by Consortium when possible.

## **Identifying a Scholar**

The New University in Exile Consortium usually does not directly identify endangered scholars in need of hosting, but we will connect you with organizations that can help.

## **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 fled from severe and targeted threats to their lives and/or careers in their home countries or countries of residence.

## Acknowledgements

The New University in Exile Consortium is extremely grateful for the support from individual donors and from the following foundations:

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art  
Helen Frankenthaler Foundation  
Leon Levy Foundation  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Sloan Foundation

We would also like to thank our institutional liaisons for their unwavering support of our programs and their institutions' hosted, endangered scholars.

## Leadership

### Founding Director

**Arien Mack**, Alfred and Monette Marrow Professor of Psychology Emeritus, the New School for Social Research

### Executive Committee

**T. Alexander Aleinikoff**, Executive Dean, NSSR, and University Professor, New School for Social Research

**Ahmed Bawa**, former Chief Executive Officer, Universities South Africa

**Elzbieta Matynia**, Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies, the New School for Social Research; Director, Transregional Center for Democratic Studies



## Advisory Board

**Anthony Appiah**, Professor of Philosophy and Law, New York University

**Ahmed Bawa**, CEO, University of South Africa

**Judith Butler**, Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

**Craig Calhoun**, University Professor of Social Sciences, Arizona State University

**Jerome Cohen**, Professor of Law, New York University; Director, US-Asia Law Institute

**Jonathan Fanton**, President Emeritus, American Academy of Arts & Sciences

**Masha Gessen**, Staff writer, The New Yorker

**Hadi Ghaemi**, Executive Director, Center for Human Rights in Iran

**Allan Goodman**, Former President and CEO, Institute of International Education

**Irena Grudzińska Gross**, Professor, Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Science

**Katrina vanden Heuvel**, Editorial Director and Publisher, The Nation

**Michael Ignatieff**, Rector and President, Central European University

**Ann Werner Johnson**, Trustee emeritus, Connecticut College

**Ira I. Katznelson**, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, Columbia University

**Alison von Klemperer**, Communications Consultant

**Jim Miller III**, Vice President & Chair Multimedia Journalism Department, New York Film Academy

**Robert Mundheim**, Of Counsel, Shearman & Sterling

**Aryeh Neier**, President Emeritus, Open Society Foundations

**Kenneth Roth**, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

**Donna E. Shalala**, University President, Former United States Secretary of Health and Human Services



## Ex Officio Board

**Joseph E. Aoun**, President, Northeastern University

**Andrew Armacost**, President, University of North Dakota

**Linda Bell**, Provost, Barnard College

**Joanne Berger-Sweeney**, Former President, Trinity College

**Julia von Blumenthal**, President, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**Rachel Croson**, Former Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota

**Ann E. Cudd**, Provost, University of Pittsburgh

**Linda Doyle**, Provost and President, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

**Philippe Gervais-Lambony**, Former President, Université Paris Nanterre

**Michael Hoch**, Rector, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

**Paula Johnson**, President, Wellesley College

**Radenka Maric**, President, University of Connecticut

**Thandwa Mthembu**, Vice-Chancellor, Durban University of Technology

**Walter Rosenthal**, President, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

**Michael S. Roth**, President, Wesleyan University

**Peter Salovey**, President Emeritus, Yale University

**Ursula M. Staudinger**, Rector, Technische Universität Dresden

**Gunter M. Ziegler**, President, Freie Universität Berlin



# Support the New University in Exile Consortium

Consider donating to support our mission to assist over 300 displaced and endangered scholars, students, and artists from around the world. With your help, we can create safe, supportive, and meaningful opportunities for those who have to flee the horrors of war, famine, and political repression and help lessen the painful experience of exile.

**DONATE**



Contact us for further inquiries:

[UIEConsortium@newschool.edu](mailto:UIEConsortium@newschool.edu)

[www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org](http://www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org)

