



NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

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Letter from the Director

We are pleased to present our seventh annual report. Here we provide a summary of our work over the past year—yet another year marked by escalating attacks on universities and scholars around the world, including in the United States, a country long regarded as a bastion of academic freedom.



This report appears at a particularly troubling moment for The New School, home of the original University in Exile (founded in 1933). In recent weeks, nearly 90 faculty and staff have been laid off as part of ongoing cost-cutting measures amid a years-long operating deficit now estimated at \$60 million. Many of those dismissed were tenured faculty, including several prominent critics of the University's restructuring.

On June 9, 2026, ACT-UAW Local 7902, representing more than 10,000 academic and health workers at New York University and The New School, condemned the mass firings and called for greater transparency around the justifications for both dismissals and "voluntary" separations. The opaque, top-down nature of these actions—and their disregard for tenure protections—raises serious concerns about academic freedom and undermines the principle of shared faculty governance.

While we draw special attention to developments at The New School because it is our institutional home, attacks on universities and scholars continue relentlessly around the globe. In many countries, academics face persecution because of war, political conflict, and the rise of authoritarianism. The ongoing threats to universities and academics globally—documented on our frequently updated website, [Endangered Scholars Worldwide](#)—underscore the continuing need for our work.

Letter from the Director, Cont.

The Consortium remains committed to building community among displaced and exiled scholars, helping them navigate new professional paths, and providing access to pro bono legal, mental health, and other support services.

This year's annual report highlights the work we have undertaken over the past twelve months and, perhaps even more importantly, celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of our scholars. Despite exile and the many challenges they face, they continue to produce important scholarship, advocate for human rights, and contribute meaningfully to their fields and communities.

We hope readers will gain a better appreciation of the many ways in which we support our scholar community, and in turn, the many ways our scholars contribute to their new academic homes. These efforts include our weekly scholar gatherings, our growing portfolio of co-led online seminars taught by consortium scholars, and several new initiatives. Next fall, we expect to offer nine online seminars, including three that will count towards our Gender Studies Certificate, which we believe will be particularly valuable in regions such as the Middle East and North Africa, where opportunities to pursue such coursework are often limited.

None of our work would be possible without the generous support of foundations, partner institutions, and individual donors, to whom we are deeply grateful. Their commitment enables us to continue supporting scholars at risk and defending the values of academic freedom and intellectual exchange. We hope you will join them in sustaining this vital work through a contribution to the New University in Exile Consortium.



Founding Director, Dr. Arien Mack

DONATE

Join our “Be a Colleague Campaign”

We cannot do this work without you, so please consider “Becoming a Colleague” and sharing this appeal with others.

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 400 exiled scholars from 30 countries.**

Exiled scholars thrive when their colleagues help them navigate their new academic environments. By donating to 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 visit our website to [donate](#).

Please consider:

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

Your gift will support:

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

Institutional Members

United States

Amherst College
Arizona State University
Barnard College
Binghamton University, State University of New York
Brown University
Columbia University
Connecticut College
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Hunter College
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
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](mailto:uieconsortium@newschool.edu)** to start the process.

Institutional Members

Canada

McGill University
Queen's University
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
York University

Chile

Columbia University Global Center - Santiago

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

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

Kenya

Columbia University Global Center - Nairobi

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

Scholar Forum

Each week during the academic year and irregularly during the summer, 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.

Annual Scholar 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.

Library Access Initiative

The Consortium, through its participating member universities, provides 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 17 stranded scholars with no other way to carry on their research. To read more and to apply, visit our [website](#).

Co-Led Online Seminars

The Consortium Co-Led Online Seminar program is designed to reconnect endangered scholars with the academic community and to re-engage 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.

Webinars

During each academic year, the Consortium organizes multiple webinars spanning a range of themes and topics. During 2025-26, we sponsored four webinars, which featured guest speakers, Consortium scholar-members, and member university liaisons, and attracted a combined 1,241 registrants.

Scholar Forum

A Weekly Online Meeting for Consortium Scholars

2025-26

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Scholar Forum was led by two long-time Consortium scholar-members, **Pawel Leszkowicz and Tomek Kitlinski**, Professors at the Academy of the Arts in Szczecin, Poland. This is the second year that Consortium scholars have run our weekly meetings, and we are pleased to have been able to expand the roles and opportunities for our scholars in this way.

Each year, forum topics reflect the breadth of expertise represented amongst our scholar members and their guests. In 2025-26, forum sessions included a fascinating range of topics, from performance ethnography to discussions of political and social movements, conflict studies, authoritarianism, and refugee resettlement, and covered multiple national contexts, including Afghanistan, Iran, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Venezuela.



"We see the Forum not as something we lead alone, but as a mutual space of thought and care, shaped in dialogue with you all. We are very much here for you, and we hope to engage interactively and meaningfully with you. You are the heart of our community."

- Tomek Kitlinski and Pawel Leszkowicz

Looking Forward

Next year, we are pleased to announce that our Consortium scholar-member, **Mohamad Moustafa Alabsi**, who is based in France, will lead the weekly Scholar Forum. Dr. Alabsi is a Syrian scholar who earned his Ph.D. in Political Philosophy from the University of Grenoble-Alpes/France. His research explores philosophy of law, political philosophy, the forms of regimes and of dictatorships, totalitarian movements, and the One-Party State.

Scholar Forum, Cont.

A sampling of our 2025-26 Forum presentations:

Iranian scholar Dr. Raika Khorshidian, "Collective Dreams, Hopes, and Visions for Political Transition in Iran", which explored how artistic and digital practices, including artificial intelligence, shape socio-political imaginaries.

Ukrainian scholars Dr. Daria Vystavkina and Olena Kalashnikova, "Performance Ethnography: Living the Historical Rupture: What does it mean to live through a historical rupture?" The session used concepts from Documentary and Playback Theatre to explore memory, identity, and collective trauma.

Sudanese scholars Dr. Wasma Amin Abdelgadir Ahmed, Dr. Eman Salih, and Dr. Khalid Mohammedsalih, "The War in Sudan and the Collapse of Higher Education: Voices from a Nation in Exile", which highlighted the profound effects of the ongoing conflict on the foundations of knowledge and cultural life in Sudan, while also recognizing the enduring commitment of Sudanese scholars in Sudan and in the diaspora.

Afghan scholar Dr. Ajmal Sabawoon, "Evaluating the Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs of Afghans Recently Resettled in the United States". Dr. Sabawoon presented findings from his research at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Scholar Conference

The **8th Annual Consortium Scholar Conference, "Knowledge at Risk"**, was held virtually on Tuesday, April 10, 2026. This year, the conference brought together Consortium scholars from across the disciplinary spectrum to examine how knowledge production, academic freedom, and truth-telling are threatened in contexts of war, authoritarianism, censorship, migration, and political repression. Six Consortium scholar-members discussed these issues from the perspective of their own lived experiences. There were 375 registrants.

To close the conference, we were honored that Dr. Nancy Fraser, Henry and Louise A. Loeb Professor Emerita of Philosophy and Politics at The New School for Social Research, delivered the keynote presentation, "Antisemitism, Philosemitism, and the New McCarthyism".

 [**Watch Here**](#)



THE NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM ONLINE VIA ZOOM

KNOWLEDGE AT RISK

NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

Friday, April 10 2026
2:00 - 5:00 PM ET



KEYNOTE:
NANCY FRASER
HENRY AND LOUISE A. LOEB PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS
THE NEW SCHOOL

LOCATION:
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

PROGRAM
2:00-5:00PM ET

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
ARIEN MACK, FOUNDING DIRECTOR, NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
NANCY FRASER, HENRY AND LOUISE A. LOEB PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS, THE NEW SCHOOL

PANEL 1: SCHOLARSHIP, CREATIVITY, AND RESISTANCE
MODERATOR: DILAN BOZGAN, EMERGING SCHOLARS FELLOW, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS-SANTIAGO

PANELISTS:
FRANKLIN COLLETTI - EMERGING SCHOLARS FELLOW, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS-SANTIAGO
ANDRÉ RAHMANI - ALGERIAN WRITER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE
WAHEED SAGHAR - FELLOW, UNIVERSITY IN EXILE FOR AFGHAN ARTISTS, THE NEW SCHOOL

PANEL 2: INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN TIMES OF REPRESSION
MODERATOR: NAIMA MOHAMMADI, TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

PANELISTS:
DEMET BOLAT ERKOC - WILLIAM & SALLY SEARLE RESEARCH FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
ANTON BURKOV - INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOLAR-PRACTITIONER
ABDULQAWI HAMOOD HAZAFA - EMERGING SCHOLARS FELLOW, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS-AMMAN

REGISTER NOW 

THE NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM **ONLINE ONLY**

Looking Ahead...

We are planning to hold our 9th Annual Consortium Scholar Conference at the Universitat de Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain in spring 2027. This will be the third Scholar Conference to be held in Europe. We are deeply grateful to the Universitat de Barcelona, a valued institutional member of the Consortium since 2022, for offering to host us. ***Moltes gràcies!***



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Co-led Online Seminars

The Consortium's Co-Led Online Seminars, offered each fall and spring semester, are taught by two endangered scholars – one who is hosted by a Consortium member institution, and the other a colleague of their choice. The seminars connect exiled and stranded scholars to the academic community they have lost, give voice to their expertise, reconnect students and professors, and offer free, online learning opportunities to people around the world who might not otherwise have access. Seminar registrants who attend 8 out of 10 weekly sessions are eligible to request a Consortium issued certificate of satisfactory completion.

Since 2019:

**60 Total
Courses**

**17,028
Registrants**

**1,496
Certificates**

**156
Countries
Reached**

During the 2025-26 academic year:

2,185+
registrants
including
students,
professors, and
practitioners.

120 Certificates
of Satisfactory
Completion
were awarded
to participants
who attended 8
out of 10
sessions.

Subjects
included
ecology,
political science,
gender studies,
art history, and
more

Participants
were from **78**
different
countries
around the
world

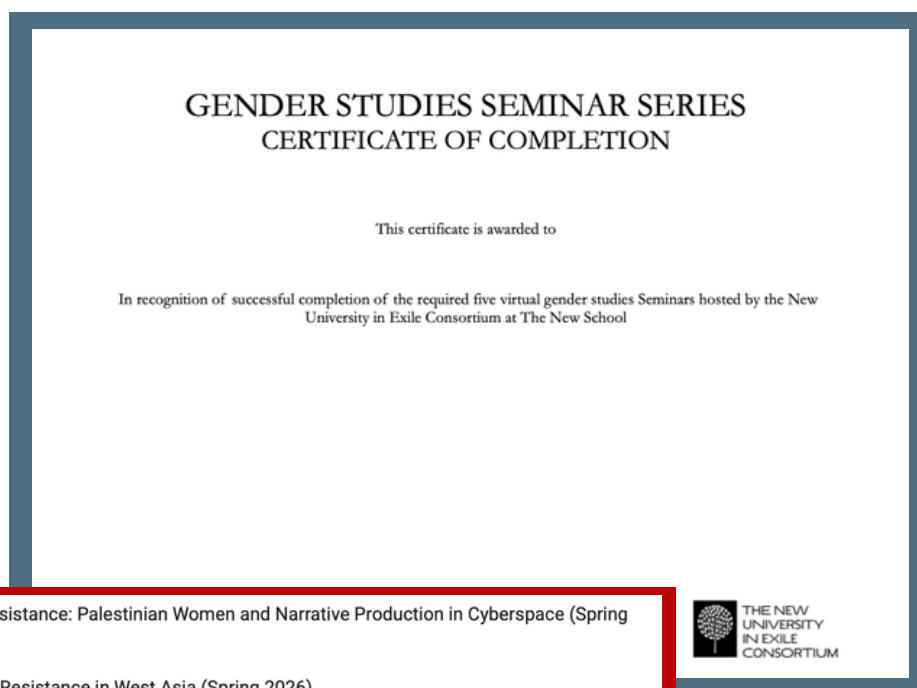


For a complete list of our co-led online seminars offered since 2019, please visit our **Seminar Archive**.

Co-led Online Seminars

Certificate in Gender Studies

In Fall 2025, we introduced the New University in Exile Certificate in Gender Studies program. The launch of this certificate program reflects both the success of and need for greater access to gender related courses, especially for people in regions of the world where these topics are not commonly taught.



- ✓ Gender and Digital Resistance: Palestinian Women and Narrative Production in Cyberspace (Spring 2026)
- ✓ Violence, Gender and Resistance in West Asia (Spring 2026)
- ✓ Gender-based Violence and Women's Activism in Post Arab Revolutionary Societies (Fall 2025)
- ✓ Intersectionality as a Theory, Methodology, and Guide to Social Change (Fall 2025)
- ✓ Lamenting Identity: Arab Women and the Melancholy of Exile in Modern Literature (Fall 2025)

To qualify for a certificate, registrants must complete at least **5** gender-related co-led online seminars. To date, we have offered 5 qualifying courses, with several more in the pipeline – to be announced – for fall 2026.

Fall 2025 Co-led Online Seminars

Bodies and Spaces of Resistance: The Untold History and Lessons from Contemporary Art in Eastern Europe, co-led by Dr. Margarita Kuleva (Russia) and Dr. Agnes Szanyi (Hungary); 262 registrants.



Gender-based Violence and Women's Activism in Post Arab Revolutionary Societies, co-led by Dr. Hassan Almohammed (Syria) and Dr. Ibrahim Al-Shibli (Syria); 252 registrants.



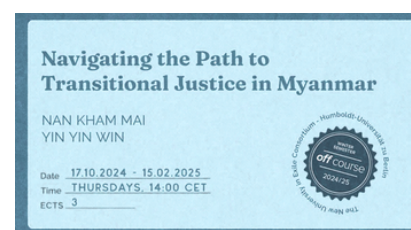
Intersectionality as a Theory, Methodology, and Guide to Social Change, co-led by Dr. Hajar Kabiri (Iran) and Dr. Sila Aktan (Iran); 415 registrants.



Lamenting Identity: Arab Women and the Melancholy of Exile in Modern Literature, co-led by Dr. Mansour Al-Maswari (Yemen) and Dr. Ashwaq Al-Quheef (Yemen); 147 registrants.



Media Communication in the 21st Century, co-led by Dr. Aksana Ulanovich (Belarus) and Dr. Andrii Kostyriev (Ukraine) and cosponsored by Off University; 76 registrants.



Spring 2026 Co-led Online Seminars

Functional Plant Ecology: Keys to the Conservation and Restoration of Global Ecosystems in a Changing World, co-led by Dr. Carlos García Núñez, (Venezuela) and Martha Elena Ramírez Medina (Venezuela); 103 registrants.



Gender and Digital Resistance: Palestinian Women and Narrative Production in Cyberspace, co-led by Dr. Hanan Alawna (Palestine) and Ramzi Naji (Yemen); 226 registrants.



Gender-based Violence, Migration, and Resistance in West Asian Countries: Feminist and Queer Perspectives, co-led by Olimpiada Usanova (Russia) and Saida Sirazhudinova (Russia) and cosponsored by Off University; 114 registrants.



The Struggle for Higher Education and Scientific Research in Sudan at War: Challenges and New Pathways, co-led by Wasma Amin Abdelgadir Ahmed (Sudan) and Dr. Nashwa Eassa (Sudan); 87 registrants.



Voices and Resistance: Social Empowerment in the Face of the Discourse of Power in Latin America, co-led by Dr. Juan Carlos Rosillo-Villena (Venezuela) and Dr. David Petit Molano (Venezuela); 120 registrants.



Endangered Scholars Worldwide (ESW)

Launched prior to the Consortium in 2007, ESW is a website that reports threats to academics and universities around the globe.

2025-2026 marked yet another year of extremely challenging conditions for universities, scholars, and students. All over the world, the rise in authoritarianism has placed academic freedom at grave risk, and institutions of higher education, including the United States, struggle to survive against mounting threats and infringements on academic and intellectual freedom.

Coverage Highlights



Russia Designates Tufts University an "Undesirable Organization", April 17, 2026

Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Photo credit: Tufts Now



Academic Freedom and Higher Education in India Continues to Face Attacks on Multiple Fronts, February 27, 2026

Students gathered at Pondicherry University, calling for administrative sanctions against professor accused of sexual harassment, October 9, 2025. Photo credit: Maktoob Media.

Consortium Webinars 25-26

Free Speech in the Academy

October 16, 2025

Increasingly brazen attacks on academic freedom and free speech across the United States are turning US universities, which only a year ago were safe havens for threatened international scholars, into places scholars must flee in order to protect their fundamental right to teach and speak out. "Free Speech in the Academy," moderated by Steven Pinker and featuring Kenneth Roth, Jameel Jaffer, Eugene Volokh and Nancy Cantor, focused on the increasingly contentious issue of free speech and academic freedom on university and college campuses in the US.



[Watch Here.](#)



Free Speech in the Academy
October 16, 2025
12:00pm - 1:30pm ET on Zoom

Join us for a webinar on the increasingly contentious issue of free speech and academic freedom on university and college campuses in the United States.

Featuring:

- Nancy Cantor**
President
Hunter College
- Jameel Jaffer**
Director, Knight First Amendment Institute
Columbia University
- Kenneth Roth**
Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor and Visiting Lecturer
Princeton University
- Eugene Volokh**
Gary T. Schwartz Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus
UCLA Law

Moderated by:

- Steven Pinker**
Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology
Harvard University

Register Now

Sponsored by the New University in Exile Consortium

Scholars in Exile: How Displacement Shapes an Academic Life

November 3, 2025
5:30PM ET
On Zoom

Please join us for a webinar during which five New University in Exile Consortium Scholars will share their experiences of working and living as scholars in exile.

Featuring:



Eman Salih
Postdoctoral Associate
Yale University



Sahraa Karimi
Film Director & Lecturer
Yale University



Sidney Neo
Researcher
Yale University



Carlos García Núñez
Visiting Scholar
Trinity College - Hartford

Moderated by:



Nazan Bedirhanoglu
Assistant Professor
Xavier University



Register Now

Sponsored by the New University in Exile Consortium

Scholars in Exile: How Displacement Shapes an Academic Life

November 3, 2025

This webinar featured five Consortium scholars, each of whom shared their experience of working and living as a scholar in exile. Our panelists included Sahraa Karimi, Eman Salih, Sidney Neo, and Carlos García Núñez, and was moderated by Nazan Bedirhanoglu.



[Watch Here.](#)

Webinars, Continued



Voices of Resilience: Women Advocating for Women

February 25, 2026

"Voices of Resilience" brought together five distinguished experts whose work spans advocacy, law, policy, science, and the pursuit of equity across borders. With esteemed panelists Shirin Ebadi, Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Sima Simar, Nashwa Eassa, and moderator Yasmine Ergas, the webinar centered around current challenges and emerging strategies for advancing human rights and gender equality in an era of profound challenges.



[Watch Here.](#)

Nurturing Knowledge: Hosting Exiled Scholars

March 27, 2026

When scholars are forced into exile, the work of protection is only the beginning. During this webinar, three university liaisons to the New University in Exile Consortium discussed how hosting endangered scholars creates dynamic spaces of exchange—expanding cultural understanding, deepening intellectual inquiry, and reinforcing the defense of academic freedom. The conversation illuminated the ways that institutions can move beyond safe havens to build vibrant communities rooted in solidarity, reciprocity, and the shared pursuit of knowledge.



[Watch Here.](#)

University in Exile for Afghan Artists

Our 2025-26 Fellows

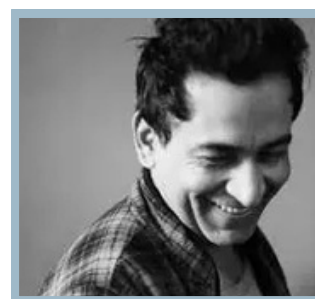
In collaboration with the Artistic Freedom Initiative, the Consortium welcomed its first Afghan artist in fall 2022, and has since **welcomed a total of 6 endangered Afghan artists on fellowships** to the programs and divisions in the arts at The New School (TNS). The initiative effectively created a second University in Exile at TNS, an achievement of which we are very proud. Artists who were hosted in the 2025-2026 academic year are profiled below.

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, her vibrant staged photography, which highlights themes of identity and femininity and unseen portraits, particularly within the Afghan experience, has been exhibited worldwide. In April 2026, Fatimah's exhibition, "Beauty Amidst War" was featured at the The Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York City. Fatimah was hosted by the **School of Arts, Media, & Technology at Parsons School of Design** from fall 2024 until spring 2026. Beginning in the summer of 2026, she will be affiliated with Parsons School of Design in Paris, France.



Pearl in The Oyster #32 © Fatimah Hossaini

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 music 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. Dr. Saghar was hosted by the **Mannes College of Performing Arts** at The New School.



With special thanks to the funders of this initiative: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

Consortium Annual Retreat

Hosted by Wellesley College



This year, 40 consortium scholars, liaisons, and staff gathered at **Wellesley College** from June 15–17 for the **4th Consortium Scholar Retreat**. We are grateful to Wellesley College, which joined the Consortium in 2018, for hosting this year's retreat.



Dr. Paula A. Johnson, President of Wellesley College, graciously greeted our group before our welcome dinner. On the morning of the following day, we hosted a career planning workshop facilitated by Meredith Mira of ChoicePoints Career and Life Coaching, which received extremely positive feedback from the scholars, many of whom are facing the difficult moment when their fellowships end and they must figure out what comes next. We also enjoyed a presentation by Professor Liza Oliver, Art Historian and Director of the Pluralism Initiative at Wellesley. Later that afternoon, we spent time discussing future Consortium programming and collecting suggestions from the scholars about activities for the upcoming 2026–27 academic year. In the evening, we enjoyed a wonderful performance by the International Trio, who played for us and took requests from our scholars for songs and music from around the world.



"The Retreat serves as a vital gathering for scholars hailing from countries facing various challenges—scholars who navigate similar struggles, such as uncertainty about the future, family separation, and economic instability. Ultimately, I believe this retreat is an initiative well worth maintaining; it remains a cornerstone of the consortium's activities." – Carlos García Núñez, Consortium Scholar



Scholar Achievements

Our scholar-members are actively engaged across a wide variety of fields. Each year, we are proud to follow their many accomplishments and activities around the world, just some of which we highlight below:

New Positions, Honors, and Awards

Consortium scholars received new appointments and awards, including:

- **Hanan Alawna**, Awarded a Research Stay Fellowship at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (May–June 2026).
- **Nazan Bedirhanoglu**, Awarded AAUW's American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship for, "Academic Freedom, Epistemic Community of Exiled Scholars, and Global Solidarity Networks," (2025–2026).
- **Gebremedhin Haile**, Accepted a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.'
- **Eman Salih**, Selected to serve on the Scholars at Risk - U.S. Section Steering Committee (2025–2027).

Dr. Utku Balaban

Dr. Balaban's book, ***Industrial Islamism*** (July 2025), has won four major awards: The International Studies Association's Best International Political Economy Award for 2025, the American Sociological Association's Paul Sweezy Book Award, the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Development Book Award, and the American Political Science Association's MENA Best Senior Book Award.



Scholar Achievements, Cont.

Scholar Publications

Books and articles published by Consortium scholars this year included:

- **Katty Alhayek**, "Digital Empowering Positivity: Syrian Women's Counter-Discourse for Resistance and Healing." *Journal of Multicultural Discourses*. (September 26, 2025).
- **Ahmad Barakat**, "Orientalism and Hierarchy of Victims." *The Journal of Communication and Media Studies*. (February 9, 2026).
- **Demet Bolat**, "The Ambivalent Meanings of Feeling at Home: Women in the Politics of the Common Spaces in Turkey." *Feminist Review*. (April 14, 2026).
- **Abdulqawi Hazaee**, "Political Oppression and Forceful Departure: A Critique of Hisham Matar's Narratives in *The Country of Men*," *Negotiating Memory*, submitted for publishing.
- **Nael Hijo**, "Nostalgia Amid the Horror." *The Progressive*. (February 23, 2026).
- **Reem Lulu**, "Arts as resistance to ethnic cleansing: a multimodal discourse analysis of political cartoons on Trump's Gaza displacement plan." *Media International Australia*, (2025).
- **Zahra Motamedi**, "Religious and Tribal Sovereignty in Afghanistan: The Taliban's Governance, Its Impact on Women's and Minorities' Rights, and Global Implications." *Human Rights Quarterly*. (February 2026).
- **Ararat Osipian**, "Asset Appreciation and Predatory Raiding in Russia: Changing Value, Changing Hands." London and New York: Routledge; Osipian, Ararat. (2026).
- **Juan Carlos Rosillo-Villena**, "Make Our People Great Again: Democratic Quality, Discourse and Progressivism in Latin America." (2025).
- **Sima Samar**, Report on the Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan, Afghanistan Human Rights Center. (April 2, 2026).
- **Nataliia Verovkina**, *Acquired Resistance to Molecularly Targeted Therapies for Cancer*. (June 5, 2025).

ЕКОНОМІЧНІ МЕХАНІЗМИ ПІДВИЩЕННЯ ЕНЕРГОЕФЕКТИВНОСТІ ТА РОЗВИТКУ ВІДНОВЛЮВАНОЇ ЕНЕРГЕТИКИ В ДОМОГОСПОДАРСТВАХ
Монографія



Scholar Achievements, Cont.

Teaching

Consortium scholars taught a variety of courses at universities and institutions around the world, including:

- **Nazan Bedirhanoglu**, with guest lecturers and fellow scholar-members, Nour Audi, Dinara Ryspayeva, and Sid Naing, "Comparative Healthcare Systems," Xavier University, Spring 2026.
- **Franklin Colletti**, Universidad Gabriela Mistra and University for the Arts, Sciences, and Communication: "Introduction to History and Historiography and Historical Methodology"; "Contemporary History, Citizenship and Democracy, International Current Affairs Workshop."
- **Hasina Jalal**, Duquesne University: "Human Rights and Human Security: Politics, Law, and Policy."
- **Raika Khorshidian**, Lecturer on "Iranian Art: Histories and Identities: Iranian Modern and Contemporary Art" at the Institute of Asian and Islamic Art History of the University of Bonn, Germany.
- **Naima Mohammadi**, University of Pittsburgh: "Intro to Gender, Sexuality"; "Women's Studies"; "Sociology of Gender"; "Working Women"; "Contemporary Arab Society."
- **Iryna Sotnyk**, Sumy State University: "Economics of Resource-Saving"; "Social and Solidarity Economy"; "Decision-making"; "Economics and Organization of Electricity Generation."

Media Appearances, Exhibits, and Screenings

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

- **Sahraa Karimi**, photographs featured in exhibition, "Lighting Shadows - The Women of Afghanistan" at the Nobel Peace Center Exhibition in Oslo, Norway, February 2026.
- **Ilya Solomeshch**, interviewed for the Sapere Aude Project, "Who are We without Our Past? A Historian's Perspective", September 18, 2025.
- **Kian Tajbakhsh**, Multiple appearances on *CNN-Newsnight with Abby Phillip* to discuss the Iran War.
- **Ma Thida**, interviewed by PEN International in Greece for the annual World Day of the Imprisoned Writer, November 15, 2025.



Scholar Achievements, Cont.

Lectures and Presentations

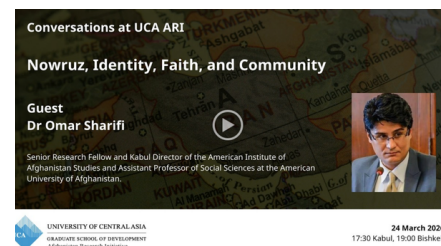
Academic and artistic events that Consortium scholars participated in included:

- **Wasma Amin**, "Post-Transcriptional Regulation Across Fungi," The China–Sweden (NSFC–STINT) Symposium on Fungal Infections and Human Health, Stockholm, April 2026.
- **Teng Biao**, "China's Transnational Repression and its Impact on the International Order," Queen Mary University, 2025.10.7; Roskilde University & Amnesty International Denmark, October 27, 2025; Basel University, November 14, 2025.
- **Shada Bokir**, "The Other War: Economic Foreign Occupation and Civic Resistance in Hadhramaut," Cities at War Lecture Series, Social Science Institute, Humboldt University, December 2, 2025.
- **Andrii Kostyriev**, "Electronic Democracy as a System for Ensuring the Implementation of Civil and Political Rights and Freedoms in the Internet Age," T.H. Shevchenko National University, January 14, 2026.
- **Seyed Masoud Noori**, Princeton University Conference on Academic Freedom (April 24–25, 2026): Presented a paper titled: "The Crisis of Academic Freedom in Iran: From Expansion to Structural Control and Global Isolation."
- **Basileus Zeno**, Research presentation at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Memory Studies Association (MSA) in Prague, Czech Republic, and at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.

Projects in the works

Consortium scholars are engaged in ongoing research, media projects, and writing, including:

- **Carlos García Núñez**, Monitoring Project of Permanent Plots of the Andean Cloud Forest in Venezuela, funded by the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion, Science, Practice and Policy for Sustainable Development in the Andes.
- **Asli Kotaman**, host of her newly launched podcast, "Gidilmeyen Yol" on Apaçık Radyo, with new episodes added every Monday.
- **Omar Sharifi**, "Making the Afghan Nation: Faith, Identity and Politics of Belonging." Forthcoming book manuscript.
- **Melissa Solórzano**, Book Project: "Land and Power: Governing to Possess? Dispossession and Land Grabbing in Nicaragua."



Special Feature: University of Yangon - Interim University

On the morning of February 1, 2021, Myanmar's military overthrew the country's democratically elected government, seizing power in a coup d'état. Within weeks, the junta launched a violent crackdown on dissent. Members of the University of Yangon teachers' union and student union were arrested, detained, or forced into hiding as universities across the country became targets of repression.



Capstone Program (2025-2026 Academic Year)

Program at a Glance

A degree-completion bridging program for Myanmar university students whose education was disrupted by the current political instabilities and violations.

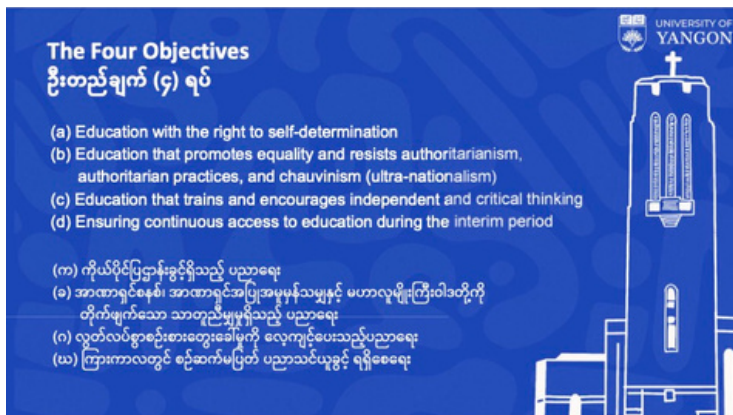
Enabling students to:

- Complete a bachelor's degree by recognizing **eligible academic credits earned** before 2021 and through interim studies after 2021.
- Fulfill **remaining degree requirements** through a supervised capstone research or applied learning project.
- Receive **academic mentorship** through the Myanmar Higher Education Consortium.

Myanmar Higher Education Consortium:
University of Yangon (Interim University), Virtual Federal University, Lund University, Northern Illinois University, University of Montana, University of Toronto, Yale University, and Palacký University Olomouc.

Degree-Awarding Institution:
University of Yangon (Interim University), UY-IU

In May 2021, a group of University of Yangon professors in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), **including Consortium scholar, Yin Yin Win**, established the University of Yangon Interim University Council (UYUIC) to preserve the university's academic mission. Since then, the Council has worked to sustain higher education under extraordinary circumstances. **In 2026, 80 students completed their degrees.**



The Four Objectives
ဦးတည်ချက် (၄) ခု

- Education with the right to self-determination
- Education that promotes equality and resists authoritarianism, authoritarian practices, and chauvinism (ultra-nationalism)
- Education that trains and encourages independent and critical thinking
- Ensuring continuous access to education during the interim period

(က) ကိုယ်ပိုင်ပြဌာန်းခွင့်ရှိသည့် ပညာရေး
(ခ) အာဏာရှင်စနစ်၊ အာဏာရှင်အပြုအမူနှင့် မဟာလူမျိုးကြီးဝါဒတို့ကို တိုက်ဖျက်သော သာတူညီမျှမှုရှိသည့် ပညာရေး
(ဂ) လွတ်လပ်စွာစဉ်းစားတွေးခေါ်မှုကို လေ့ကျင့်ပေးသည့်ပညာရေး
(ဃ) ကြားကာလတွင် စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ပညာသင်ယူခွင့် ရရှိရေး

Total Graduated Students: 80

Program	Graduates
Direct Request	8
Track 1	38
Track 2	15
Law Track	19

The Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund for Gazan Students

On May 17, 2025, 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-weeks), when an Israeli bomb hit the Gazan refugee camp where they were living. Safa was a teacher. To honor her memory, the Consortium created the **Safa Hijjo Family Memorial Fund for Gazan Students** to help displaced Gazan students continue their education at The New School. Since formally opening the fund in September 2025, we have raised over \$12,000 and extend our sincerest thanks to all those who donated.

Thanks to our donors, we have been able to provide financial support to three Gazan students currently studying at The New School. While none of us can single-handedly change the circumstances that forced these and many others to flee Gaza, we can help to make their lives in New York and at The New School easier and more livable. If you would like to help us continue to honor the memory of Nael Hijjo’s sister and family in this way, please donate to the **Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund** on our [website](#).



One-Time	Recurring
\$500	\$1,000
\$2,500	\$5,000

Amount *

\$

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☐ Extend your impact and make this a monthly gift 17

Direct your donation to one of: General Consortium Support or Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund for Gazan Students *

Safa Hijjo Memorial Fund for Gazan Students ×

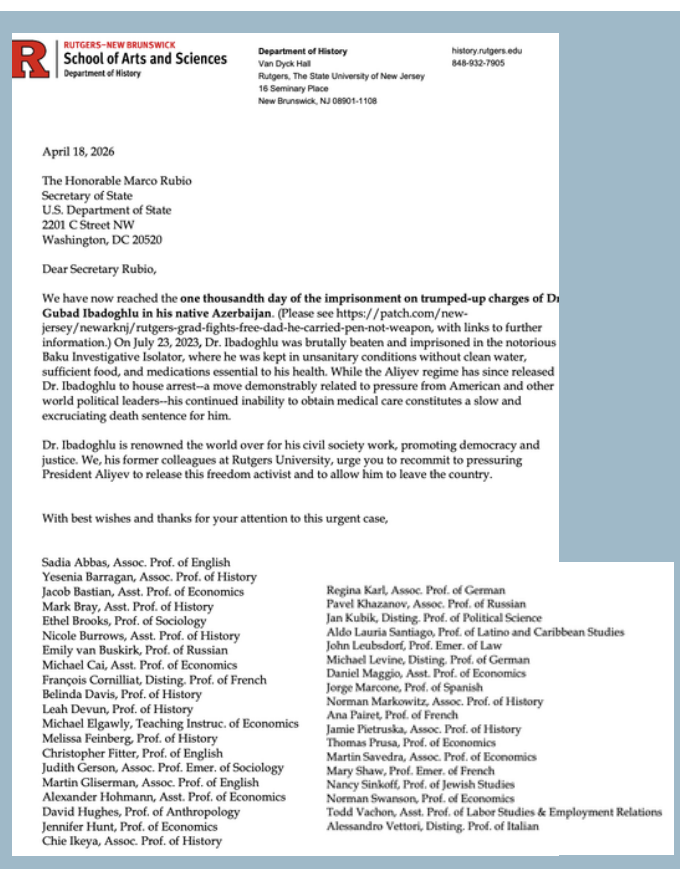
Gubad Ibadoghlu

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. Please visit www.freegubad.com for further updates and access to the petition demanding his immediate release from house arrest.



On April 18, 2026, 38 of Dr. Ibadoghlu's former colleagues at **Rutgers University** brought renewed attention to his case by signing an open letter to **Secretary of State Marco Rubio**. The letter urges Secretary Rubio to use his official capacity to pressure the Aliyev regime to **release** Dr. Ibadoghlu from house arrest, permit him to **exit** the country, and allow him access to vital **healthcare**. You can access the full letter [here](#) on our website.



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 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.

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

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Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Andrew Carnegie Foundation
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Charles F. Kettering Foundation
Doris Duke Foundation
Helen Frankenthaler Foundation
Leon Levy Foundation
Newman's Own Foundation

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

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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



www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org

