



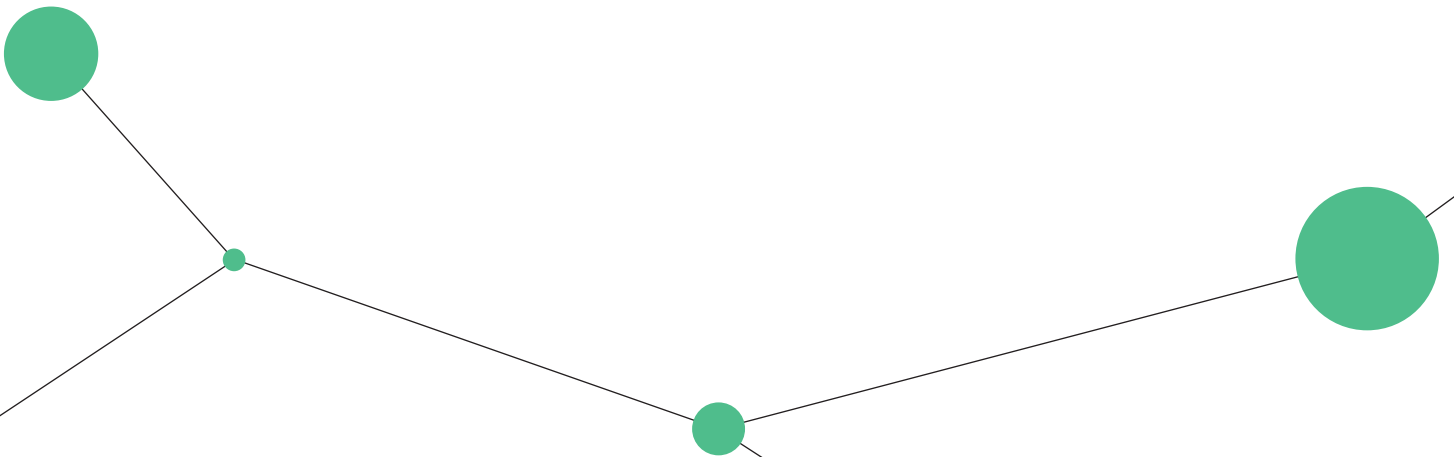
Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

SCHOLARS AT RISK
GERMANY SECTION

Programme

Philipp Schwartz Forum

3–4 April 2025 | Berlin



Agenda

Convened by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative, the Philipp Schwartz Forum 2025 brings together around 350 participants in Berlin and online, including Philipp Schwartz and MSCA4Ukraine fellows as well as academic mentors and project leads.

The forum aims at offering and strengthening networking opportunities for researchers at risk and all those supporting them, at local, national or international levels. Researchers, policymakers, administrators and other stakeholders will discuss attacks on academic freedom, civil society and democracy in various regions of the world. Researchers at risk will share their expertise on and experiences with recognizing and resisting these trends.

Participants are invited to examine the challenge of re-building sustainable perspectives for scholars who were forced to leave their working places and their homes due to very personal threats and risks incurred in their home countries. A particular focus will be placed on mutual learning opportunities for at-risk scholars, mentors, and host organisations working to support at-risk researchers and to strengthen academic freedom. Participants are invited to present their perspectives on institutional, national, European and global initiatives to promote academic freedom and support scholars.

Please note that this event is by invitation only and requires advance registration. The conference language will be English. Parts of the programme will be available online via streaming (day 1). The times indicated represent Central European Summer Time.

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports researchers who are at severe risk from politically motivated persecution or armed conflict. Since 2016, the initiative has been granting funding to universities and research institutions in Germany to host researchers at risk through fully-funded research fellowships for a period of two years. Fellowships can be extended by one year under a co-financing model. In addition, the host institution is granted an allowance of € 20,000 per fellowship. This financial support is complemented by advisory services for fellows, academic mentors and host institutions. These services include the annual Philipp Schwartz Forum, which serves a platform connecting researchers at risk, host institutions and relevant partner organisations for networking and mutual advice. So far, approximately 550 researchers from 27 countries have been supported through the Philipp Schwartz Initiative and its special actions for Iranian, Afghan and Ukrainian researchers. Additional 48 researchers are currently supported with short-term bridge fellowships.



The Philipp Schwartz Initiative is funded by:



Additional funding is provided by:



The Philipp Schwartz Forum is also supported by:



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101101923.

Programme

Thursday, 3 April 2025

Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus

Pre-Forum Meetings

09:00 – 10:30 _____ **Scholars at Risk Germany General Assembly** _____ **Bernhard von Langenbeck**

10:30 – 11:15 _____ **Scholars at Risk Germany** _____ **Bernhard von Langenbeck; Wandelhalle**
Regional Meetings

11:15 – 12:45 _____ **Philipp Schwartz Initiative Workshop for**
Host Institution Representatives _____ **Bernhard von Langenbeck**

This workshop will serve as a forum to discuss questions on the administrative implementation of Philipp Schwartz grants and challenges in providing support to displaced researchers.

Forum Programme

12:45 – 13:45 _____ **Light Welcome Lunch** _____ **Foyer; Wandelhalle**

14:00 – 14:45 _____ **Opening and Welcome** _____ **Auditorium**

Robert Schlögl, President, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Christina Gehlsen, Head of the International Science Policy Division,
Federal Foreign Office

14:45 – 16:00 _____ **Repression and Resistance – Feminist Perspectives** _____ **Auditorium**
on the Fight for Democracy and Academic Freedom in
Turkey and Belarus

This session will examine how and why researchers become targets of repression and discuss resistance against restrictions to academic freedom and other civil liberties. It will focus on the contributions by women in Turkey and Belarus and will explore lessons for researchers and policymakers in Germany and Europe.

Nil Mutluer, Philipp Schwartz Alumna, Leipzig University

Olga Shparaga, Philipp Schwartz Fellow, University of Vienna / FernUniversität Hagen

Chair: Mareike Ilse, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

16:00 – 17:00 _____ **Poster Session** (*Refreshments served*)

Social Science _____ **Wandelhalle**
MINT _____ **Foyer**

17:00 – 18:00 _____ **Rebuilding Successful Career Paths** _____ **Auditorium**

Philipp Schwartz Alumni from Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela share their experiences and strategies managing the transition to post-fellowship opportunities, both within and beyond academia.

Halina Falfushynska, Philipp Schwartz Alumna, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences/ ENERTRAG SE

Anne Schreiter, GSO – Guidance, Skills & Opportunities for Researchers e.V.

Pinar Şenoğuz, Philipp Schwartz Alumna, Technische Hochschule Köln

Jeff Wilkesmann, Philipp Schwartz Alumnus, Technische Hochschule Deggendorf

Chair: Maike Didero, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

18:00 – 19:00 _____ **Spotlight on the State of the Academic System in Syria** _____ **Auditorium**

Musallam Abedtalas, Philipp Schwartz Alumnus, IDOS

Rana Alsalim, Philipp-Schwartz Alumna

Hani Harb, German-Syrian Research Society (DSFG)

Tina Zintl, IDOS

Chair: Frank Albrecht, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

19:00 – 21:00 _____ **Networking Dinner** _____ **Foyer**

For guests who need to get to the Motel One hotel at Alexanderplatz, there will be a shuttle service from the venue at 8.30pm and 9:00pm.

Friday, 4 April 2025

Humboldt University Berlin

08:00 – 08:45 _____ **Morning Coffee**

08:45 – 09:15 _____ **Welcome and Introduction** _____ **Fritz-Reuter-Saal**

Judith Wellen, Head of Department Strategy and External Relations, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Christoph Schneider, Vice President for Research, Humboldt University Berlin

09:15 – 13:00 _____ **Coaching Workshops for Fellows: Rebuilding your Career – Track 1**

a) **Proposal Writing and Third-Party Funding Acquisition**

This workshop offers insights on grant proposal writing by analysing the funders' point of view and will carve out the logic and essence of a grant proposal. Workshop participants will be divided into groups, with each group focusing on the essentials for a specific career stage.

A Annette Kolb, coachademics _____ **1.404**

B Philipp Gramlich, natural science careers _____ **1.401**

b) **Academic Writing** _____ **1.402**

The seminar aims to support participants in structuring their academic writing so as to stand out from the crowd by producing clear, engaging and persuasive text.

Matteo Garavoglia, impulsplus

c) **Strategic Networking – How to Make Your Research Visible** _____ **1.406**

This workshop is designed to help participants find individual ways that suit them personally in order to create and expand upon existing and future networks and contacts.

Eva Reichmann, beruf & leben

d) **Research and Career Development: Meeting Employers' Expectations with Your Skills Portfolio** _____ **1.506**

This workshop provides support in gaining a clear picture of career requirements and personal development opportunities in the German academic system as well as on the labour market outside academia.

Christine Kohistani, samin world

e) **Your Successful Career Path: Application Strategies and CV-Writing for Academia & other Sectors** _____ **1.405**

This workshop discusses standards for the German job market in comparison with academia/other sectors and include the communication of your own skills.

Anne Schreiter, Guidance, Skills & Opportunities for Researchers e.V.

i) **Navigating Career Pathways Within and Beyond the Philipp Schwartz Fellowship** _____ **1.501**

Aimed a Philipp Schwartz Bridge Fellowship Holders, this workshop will offer an opportunity to get acquainted with support measures offered in the scope of the PSI fellowship. It will provide information on the academic job market in Germany and introduce different strategies for career development.

Ulrike Schneeberg & Lina Alhaddad, Kenne deine Monster

Holger Radke, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

09:15 – 13:00 _____ **Thematic Workshops – Track 2**

f) **Mental Health – Overcoming Isolation and Other Challenges** _____ **1.403**

This interactive, participation-focused workshop will explore the primary sources of stress and mental health challenges that affect at-risk and exiled researchers. Our aim is to identify practical approaches and resources that can empower researchers to continue their work effectively in new environments and overcome barriers to their socio-academic engagement. The workshop is open to all researchers and host institution representatives interested in this topic.

Suhailah Akbari, Philipp Schwartz Fellow, Humboldt University Berlin

Malene Budde, Psychologist, Düsseldorf

Iryna Mazhak, MSCA4Ukraine Fellow, Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland

g) **Transnational Repression – Struggling with Security Abroad** _____ **1.505**

This interactive workshop provides information on forms of digital repression by authoritarian regimes as well as non-state actors. It focuses on digital safety and cybersecurity for scholars, discussing best practices and tools for researchers to protect themselves and their data in an increasingly digital and often hostile environment. Specific risks and challenges for female researchers and activists will be considered in this context. The workshop is open to all researchers and host institution representatives interested in this topic.

Nadira Ahmadi, Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Lufthansa

Viktoria Boiko, Philipp Schwartz Alumna, Hertie School

Mursal Dawodi, Philipp Schwartz Fellow, Technical University of Munich

Mariam Farda, former associate professor at Computer Science faculty of Kabul University, FU Berlin

Allison Koh, Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Government, University of Birmingham

Mai Van Tran, Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

13:00 – 14:00 _____ **Networking Lunch** _____ **Foyer**

14:00 – 15:00 _____ **Closing Plenary: German and European Funding Opportunities for Researchers at Risk** _____ **Fritz-Reuter-Saal**

The session aims to provide the participants with a reliable map of the German research landscape. Selected funding opportunities will be presented in more detail.

Marija Fedotovaite, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Mechthild Köhler, International Affairs, German Research Foundation

Franziska Kothe, Project Manager Operative Programmes, Gerda Henkel Foundation

Oksana Seumenicht, Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Chair: Maike Didero, Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Post-Forum Meetings

15:00 – 16:00 _____ **Information Fair on Funding Opportunities** _____ **Foyer**

15:00 – 16:00 _____ **Networking Opportunity for MSCA4Ukraine Fellows and Philipp Schwartz Fellows from Ukraine** _____ **1.401**

15:00 – 16:00 _____ **Scholars at Risk Germany Steering Group Meeting** _____ **1.403**
(by invitation only)

15:30 – 18:30 _____ **Networking Meeting for Philipp Schwartz Fellows from Syria** _____ **1.406**
(by invitation only)

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from abroad and from Germany. As an intermediary organisation for German foreign cultural and educational policy the Foundation promotes international cultural dialogue and academic exchange. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation wants to recruit the world's best minds for a research stay in Germany as well as for its international network of outstanding researchers. In all our efforts we emphatically campaign for gender equality, equal opportunities and diversity.



Robert Schlögl

President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Robert Schlögl is a chemist with research interests in heterogeneous catalysis and materials for energy storage concepts. After his studies and PhD in Munich, he was a postdoc in Cambridge and Basel. Following his habilitation in Berlin, he became a professor at the Goethe University Frankfurt. For many years, he led the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Berlin (1994–2023), as well as being the founding and subsequently managing director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion in Mülheim an der Ruhr (2011–2022). Long before starting his tenure as President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2023, Professor Schlögl has been active both nationally and internationally in a number of advisory and consultative bodies. He is Vice-President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and a member of several other academies. Concurrently, he chairs the Advisory Board of the Kopernikus Projects of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which drive research on energy transition. He has played a significant role in bringing together sciences, industry, civil society and policy makers.



Judith Wellen

Head of Department Strategy and External Relations Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Dr. Judith Wellen is head of the Strategy department at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Foundation's Representative for External Relations. She served as head of the International Strategy Office at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and as personal advisor to the president of the university. Previously, she was head of several executive training programmes at the Goethe Institut. Following studies in Tübingen, Dublin, Berlin and Madrid, she was an associated fellow of the German-French graduate school "Institutional Orders, Text and Symbols" at Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes-Sorbonne, Paris, and Technische Universität Dresden. Wellen holds an M.A. in Art History and Cultural Anthropology from Humboldt Universität, and a Ph.D. with distinction in Art History from Freie Universität Berlin. Her numerous grants include a Ph.D. scholarship from the Cusanuswerk (Episcopal Scholarship Foundation). Her dissertation examined the relationship between art and politics, in particular the subject of political iconography in Early Modern Spain.

Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom

The Division 1.4 “*Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom*” is home to the Foundation’s funding programs for researchers at risk and its work around aspects of academic freedom. It implements the *Philipp Schwartz Initiative (PSI)* funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, including the PSI related regional support programmes. The division manages the selection and funding processes of *MSCA4Ukraine*, an EU-wide funding program for Ukrainian researchers, as well as AvH’s commitment to *Inspireurope+*, a project for networking and advising political and other stakeholders at European level; both projects being funded by the European Commission.



Frank Albrecht

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Frederik Strobel

Programme Officer MSCA4Ukraine



Sandra Grziwa

Programme Officer Philipp Schwartz Initiative



Simon Strobl

Student Assistant MSCA4Ukraine



Cornelia Hörtnner

Programme Director Philipp Schwartz Initiative, on leave



Lena Vos

Programme Officer Philipp Schwartz Initiative



Julia Ihde

Senior Programme Coordinator MSCA4Ukraine

The German Section of the Scholars at Risk Network



A

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation:
Since 2016, the Foundation has been hosting the secretariat of the German section of the Scholars at Risk Network.

Contacts:

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Katja Machacsek, Senior Programme Coordinator

Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Phone +49 (0) 228 833 182, Email: schwartz-initiative@avh.de

Scholars at Risk is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission is to protect threatened researchers and promote academic freedom. The German Section and its steering group are chaired by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. At present, it comprises 61 member institutions.

SAR Germany and its regional networks foster cooperation between stakeholders at the national and regional level, strengthening services for researchers at risk. Collaborations frequently incorporate other institutions committed to supporting researchers at risk.

Mitglieder / Members:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen | 32 Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen |
| 2 Universität Bayreuth | 33 Georg-August-Universität Göttingen |
| 3 Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin | 34 Universität Greifswald |
| 4 Bard College Berlin | 35 FernUniversität in Hagen |
| 5 Freie Universität Berlin | 36 Universität Hamburg |
| 6 Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin | 37 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover |
| 7 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | 38 Universität Hohenheim |
| 8 Internationale Psychoanalytische Universität Berlin | 39 Fachhochschule Südwestfalen Iserlohn |
| 9 Leibniz-Gemeinschaft Berlin | 40 Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena |
| 10 Technische Universität Berlin | 41 Karlsruher Institut für Technologie |
| 11 Connexus gGmbH Berlin | 42 Universität Kassel |
| 12 Fachhochschule Bielefeld | 43 Technische Hochschule Köln |
| 13 Universität Bielefeld | 44 Universität zu Köln |
| 14 Ruhr-Universität Bochum | 45 Universität Konstanz |
| 15 Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Bonn | 46 Philipps-Universität Marburg |
| 16 Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Bonn | 47 Max-Planck-Gesellschaft München |
| 17 Hochschulrektorenkonferenz Bonn | 48 Technische Universität München |
| 18 Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn | 49 FH Münster |
| 19 Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig | 50 Universität Münster |
| 20 Technische Universität Braunschweig | 51 Universität Oldenburg |
| 21 Universität Bremen | 52 Universität Osnabrück |
| 22 Technische Universität Clausthal | 53 Universität Paderborn |
| 23 Technische Universität Darmstadt | 54 Universität Potsdam |
| 24 Technische Universität Dresden | 55 Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft des Saarlandes Saarbrücken |
| 25 Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf | 56 Universität Siegen |
| 26 Universität Duisburg-Essen | 57 Hochschule Stralsund |
| 27 Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt | 58 Universität Trier |
| 28 Europa-Universität Flensburg | 59 Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen |
| 29 Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main | 60 Universität Vechta |
| 30 Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) | 61 Bergische Universität Wuppertal |
| 31 Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg | |

Steuerungsgremium / Steering Group:

Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung
 Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
 Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
 Hochschulrektorenkonferenz
 Universität Bayreuth
 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
 Ruhr-Universität Bochum
 Universität Hamburg
 Karlsruher Institut für Technologie
 Universität zu Köln
 Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Regionale Verbände / Regional Networks:

- BW** Regionales Netzwerk PSI Plus (Baden-Württemberg)
- B** Bayerisches Hochschul-Netzwerk für gefährdete Forschende
- BB** Scholars at Risk Netzwerk Berlin-Brandenburg
- V** SAR Verbund Norddeutschland
- NRW** Scholars at Risk Germany Section NRW Group

Identity protection

The organisers are aware that attendees may have to consider security concerns. While the Forum is by invitation only, it will be open to attendees from various backgrounds, possibly including members of the press. Parts of the Forum will also be broadcast online via YouTube (day 1). The organisers may document parts of the event via photo, video or screenshots for public relations purposes. Special measures to protect vulnerable participants will be in place, such as „no photo zones“ in the plenary rooms. Attendees are requested not to take photographs or videos on which other attendees might be visible.

For questions regarding the Philipp Schwartz Forum 2025, please contact:

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Philipp Schwartz Forum 2025

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