



## **'Best Practice': PR activities in relation to the topic of threatened researchers**

Events are an effective means of raising public awareness of the topic of 'threatened researchers' and creating platforms for the exchange of ideas and experiences. The initial selection of successful events presented below aims to encourage interested universities and research institutions to develop their own formats. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation would be delighted to hear about other events which it can add to this list.

### **Conferences**

- 'Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Maaloula', University of Tübingen

Experts from Syria and Germany came together at this specialist conference at the University of Tübingen from 07/11/2016 to 09/11/2016. The topics covered included not only the destruction of the tangible and intangible heritage in Syria but also the possibilities of German and Arab cooperation for the reconstruction phase. The event was organised by Prof. Dr. Jens Scheiner and the Philipp Schwartz fellow Prof. Dr. Ammar Abdulrahman. For more information, please visit: <http://agya.info/research-projects/tandem-projects/conference-on-the-tangible-and-intangible-heritage-of-maaloula/>

- 'Failed State Syria – Analytical Perceptions and Perspectives on Future Plans for Reconstruction', University of Gießen

The Gießen 'Syria Conference' (19/02/2016 to 21/02/2016) was attended by Syrian and German geographers and geologists with the aim of establishing a network whose members want to support the rebuilding of academic structures in the field of geosciences at Syrian universities. The event was organised by Prof. Dr. Andreas Dittmann and the Philipp Schwartz fellow Prof. Dr. Hussein Almohamad. For more information, please visit: <https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/fb07/fachgebiete/geographie/institut/aktuelles/Symposium>

### **Lecture series**

- The 'DonnerstagsDiskurs' ('Thursday Discourse'), a joint project of the universities in Leipzig

The first 'DonnerstagsDiskurs', a podium discussion organised by the Leipzig universities, was held on 15/01/2015. The rectors at the Leipzig universities worked together to give birth to this lecture series on the latest social challenges in order to offer a stage for an open exchange of opinions and integrate the expertise of Leipzig academics into public debate. The topics covered have included freedom of expression, refugees, xenophobia, discrimination and street violence, among others. For more information, please visit: <http://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/service/veranstaltungen/donnerstagsdiskurs/>

- 'World Science Café: Refugees in Science', Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

In this lecture series organised by the International Scholars & Welcome Office in cooperation with the Centre for Cultural and General Studies (ZAK) at the KIT, refugee and threatened researchers provide insights into their fields of research. On 30/11/2016, the Philipp Schwartz fellow Prof. Dr. Hussein Almohamad gave the opening lecture on 'Foreign Involvement in the Syrian Conflict: Status Quo and Prospects'. This was followed by further lectures, including one by the Philipp Schwartz fellow Prof. Dr. Ammar Abdulrahman entitled 'Syrian Cultural Heritage during the Crisis'. For more information, please visit: <http://www.zak.kit.edu/english/5001.php>

## Lectures

- 'Zwischen globalem Denken und neuen Grenzen – wohin steuert die Universität?' ('Between Global Thinking and New Boundaries – Where is the University Heading?'), Humboldt Ferngespräche – Discussion Papers lecture series (extra), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Within the framework of International Human Rights Day, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin organised a special event on 09/12/2016 as part of its 'Humboldt Ferngespräche – Discussion Papers' lecture series. Philipp Schwartz fellow Prof. Dr. Nil Mutluer took part in the podium discussion on the social responsibility of universities. The event aimed to create stimuli in relation to the 'internationalisation of universities' and to provide a forum for exchanging ideas and networking various parties. For more information, please visit: [https://v.hu-berlin.de/?stat=show&vk\\_id=5679](https://v.hu-berlin.de/?stat=show&vk_id=5679)

- 'Intellektuelle im Ausnahmezustand' ('Intellectuals in a State of Emergency'), a panel discussion on the current situation of researchers, authors and journalists, Bremen

In cooperation between EuropaPunkt, DJV Bremen, the University of Bremen and the Festival Literatürk, a podium discussion took place on 09/11/2016 on the position of intellectuals in Turkey and their cooperation with German colleagues. The podium speakers included Turkish and German representatives from various fields such as journalism, culture and science. For more information, please visit: <http://globale-literaturfestival.de/event/intellektuelle-im-ausnahmezustand-diskussion-zur-aktuellen-lage-von-wissenschaftlerinnen-journalistinnen-und-schriftstellerinnen-in-der-tuerkei/>

- 'Deutschtürkische Beziehungen im Ausnahmezustand: Perspektiven aus der Bremer Wissenschaft' ('German-Turkish Relations in a State of Emergency: Perspectives from the Bremen Scientific Community'), podium discussion, Bremen

This public podium discussion was organised by the rectorate of the University of Bremen on 22/03/2017 and focussed on the question of the role that science can and should play in the development of German-Turkish relations. Participants in the discussions included the Philipp Schwartz fellows Prof. Betül Yarar and Dr. Çetin Gürer. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.uni-bremen.de/de/print/universitaet/presseservice/pressemitteilungen/einzelanzeige/news/detail/News/universitaet-bremen-veranstaltet-podiumsdiskussion-wie-steht-es-um-deutsch-tuerkische-wissenschaftsbe.html?cHash=f9ede3614a9d15e5eabb437dbcc919b7>

## Programmes and initiatives

- 'Refuge – Access – Future', University of Bonn

In the summer semester of 2017, the University of Bonn will launch the project 'Refuge – Access – Future'. This offers threatened and refugee researchers the opportunity to sign up to a free course programme that includes not only individual mentoring but also a German course and various workshops on topics such as intercultural training and an introduction to German academia. For more information, please visit: [https://www.uni-bonn.de/international/international-researchers/threatened-researchers/refuge-access-future?set\\_language=en](https://www.uni-bonn.de/international/international-researchers/threatened-researchers/refuge-access-future?set_language=en)