Have Questions?

Type them into questions box!

“Why am I muted?”
Don’t worry. Everyone is muted except the presenter and host.
Thank you and enjoy the show.

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Refugees, Displaced Scientists, and Chemistry Communities:
Creative Approaches to Support Chemical Practitioners
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ACS EFFORTS:

- Build science and human rights awareness among its members and the global chemistry community through webinars, symposia, news articles, and other outreach efforts
- Implemented at the level of its Board of Directors; addressing issues where ACS is uniquely positioned and qualified to make a meaningful impact
- Directed toward human rights abridgement cases where the rights and welfare of professionally engaged chemists and related practitioners are threatened

GET INVOLVED!

Join the ACS Science and Human Rights Alert Network at www.acs.org/scienceandhumanrights
Report human rights abridgements to Intlacts@acs.org
Those fleeing conflict may also help us

Chatting at school gate to couple, Davor and Ljerka, from Sarajevo doing PhDs in computer science, our sons in the same class

Davor builds a computer control system for my instrument for time-resolved spectroscopy

But war in Bosnia makes it impossible to go home

Campaign to get the family the right to remain in the UK

Citizenship and now, 30 years later, that little boy is consultant urologist
Council for At-Risk Academics
Scholar Rescue Fund

Provide fellowships for threatened scholars to continue their work in safety at academic institutions all round the world

www.cara.ngo
Founded in 1933 to help refugees from Nazi Germany

www.scholarrescuefund.org
A fund of the Institute of International Education

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York: Human Rights City Declaration

York, in becoming a Human Rights City, embraces a vision of a vibrant, diverse, fair and safe community built on the foundations of universal human rights. April 2017

Refugee Action York (RAY)
www.refugeeactionyork.org

City of Sanctuary
SYRIAN REFUGEES IN YORK

City of Sanctuary aims to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK.
How many of the following Nobel Prize winners were forced to leave their countries by political and racial intolerance or war? (0, 4, 6, 8, or 10)

Albert Einstein
Ahmed Zewail
Erwin Schrödinger
Rosalyn Yalow
Yves Chauvin
Dorothy Hodgkin
Enrico Fermi
César Milstein
Walter Kohn
Max Perutz

They may not be famous when they arrive

César Milstein Nobel Prize 1984
Invention of monoclonal antibodies

The political persecution of liberal intellectuals and scientists [in Argentina] manifested itself as a vendetta against the director of the institute where I was working. This forced my resignation and return to Cambridge [in 1963] to rejoin Fred Sanger.
A Call From CARA

September 2014: A chemist arrives in York from Aleppo as a research visitor with support from CARA.

Jan 2015: Harry’s wife and two children arrive.

Helping one family takes many people and organisations:

- CARA
- The lab – me
- The University
- Refugee Action York
- City of York Council
- The children’s school

Two more Syrians in York Chemistry

OLIVIA from Homs
Supported by CARA as a research visitor, arrived 2016

THOMAS
Supported by Scholar Rescue Fund and University of York as a research fellow 2016-17
Wife has become doctor. Two children in school.
Lectureship in University of Lincoln, Oct 2017
What Harry didn’t know

My connection to the International Human Rights Network of Scholarly Academies as Royal Society representative

https://www.internationalhrnetwork.org

The Family Connection:
My father was a student in Cambridge when his native Austria was invaded in 1938: became stateless.

My mother was from Berlin, fled with family in 1933.

My parents met in the offices of CARA!
What Harry didn’t know

1962

2014

Refugees, Displaced Scientists, and Chemistry Communities: We can help scientists fleeing conflict

- As scientists, we can help individuals, for instance by hosting them in our laboratories, or by raising funds for bursaries
- Those who you host, may also help your own science
- Einstein arrived in the USA as a famous scientist, but other displaced scientists became famous only after they arrived
- Helping one family takes many people and organisations
- Reaching out to refugee scientists will enrich your own scientific experience
Admir Masic
Founder of the MIT Refugee Action Hub (MIT ReACT)
Youth in a refugee camp

- Limited mobility
- Poverty
- Discrimination
- Depression and PTSD
- Exposed to criminal elements
- Risk of radicalization
- Motivated but no opportunities
- Work just to survive
• 650,000 (about the population size of Washington, DC)
• 6.5 million (about the population size of the state of Indiana)
• 10 million (about the population size of the state of North Carolina)
• 28 million (about the population size of the state of Texas)
• 65 million (about the population size of California, Florida, and Louisiana combined)
Forcibly Displaced People By The Millions. (Source: UNICEF)

School attendance records for refugees are incredibly poor.

- 75M school-age children in crisis areas need educational support
- 50% primary school refugee children missing out on an education
- 75% secondary school refugee adolescents missing out on an education
**Problem 1: Access**

Higher education / Youth

34% of youth around the world go to university

SOURCE: UNESCO (2014)

Higher education / Refugee Youth

Only 1% of refugee youth go to university

SOURCE: UNHCR (2015)

**Problem 2: MOOCs**

10% Completion rate

Intended Certifications

- 22% pass
- 78% fail

1:5 who intend to earn course certification succeed
Problem 3: Opportunity Cost

93% of refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line.

Imagine A Borderless Future Of Education

global accessible MIT education reaching displaced populations where they live recognizing lifelong potential careers ecosystems new capacity
What is the MIT ReACT program?

MIT ReACT Certificate Program

1 year onsite & online certificate program in computer & data science paired with entrepreneurship & innovation guidance; paid internships build pathways to professional careers.
Design

- Pass math and English proctored exam for admission
- Take online courses, enroll in paid internship
- Pass a proctored exam for each course
- Earn a ReACT certificate and credentials for on campus Master

Recruitment: 2 week campaign

- 500 applications
- ~50% refugees
- 36% women

Applications from 20 countries
16 different nationalities

Applicants’ host countries
ReACT’s 1st Class

- 18 students
  - 9 refugees
  - 9 Jordanians
  - 9 women
- 18-39 years old
- 35% report financially supporting family
- Living in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan
- Engineering, Computing, Economics, Medicine

Professional Internships

“Translate hard science and engineering talent and training into thriving careers”

- Direct ecosystem engagement
- Paid, local, and networked
ReACT in Action

100% passing ReACT students

57% passing edX certificate students

100% paired with paid internships where they live (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon)

Overall grades in 6.00.1x

92% ReACT students

60% Certified edX students

MIT News

ReACT MicroMasters programs

MITx MicroMasters program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP)

Empowering refugees worldwide by providing tools for social change

My Topics For Today

- Current situation that places faculty members under risk
- How to apply for a Philipp Schwartz Initiative Fellowship
- Rebuilding your professional life in a foreign country

http://prensa.ula.ve/2017/09/26/scholars-risk-y-coalici%C3%B3n-de-centros-de-derechos-humanos-universitarios-evidenciaron
Incendiary Venezuelan Protest: World Press Photo Award 2018


Empty Shelves And High prices: The Daily Bread Of Venezuelans

17/MAR/2018
https://www.el-carabobeno.com/anaqueles-vacios-y-precios-altos-la-cotidianidad-del-venezolano
Military Enters University of Carabobo

5/APR/2017


Military Enters University of Carabobo

Courtesy: Prof. Dr. Mayda Hocevar, Universidad de Los Andes

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THREATS TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN VENEZUELA

Police and Military Repression

In a non-democratic context and facing an humanitarian crisis, university professors and students in Venezuela have involved themselves in social protests, and as a consequence they have been murdered, illegally detained and/or subjected to military justice. Meanwhile governmental or paramilitary repressive forces have illegally burst into university campuses.

In 2017, 23 university students died in off-campus protests, shot by governmental repressive forces and/or the paramilitary forces called ‘colectivos’.

336 students were wrongfully arrested or detained. At least 39 students and professors were detained in 2017 and subjected to military justice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protest statistics in 2017</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University students died in off-campus protests</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students wrongfully arrested or detained</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professors and students detained and brought to military justice</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rafael Avendaño was a Bolivarian University Student who was expelled on October 2016 when he changed a TV channel in the medical office where he was receiving his practical classes. The Human Rights Observatory of Los Andes University representing Rafael Avendaño appealed the decision and went to court with no results yet.

On February 2017, Santiago Guevara, a professor from the Carabobo University, was detained under the charge of treason. He was brought to military justice and jailed 10 months. He lost almost 30 kilos and his health suffered damage.

Courtesy: Prof. Dr. Mayda Hocevar, Universidad de Los Andes
New Non-Autonomous Institutionality in Higher Education Policies

Since 2003 a number of 32 non-autonomous universities have been placed under the control of Sucre and Alma Mater Missions, created for indoctrination into the Bolivarian socialist credo. Many of them do not even have an adequate infrastructure, laboratories or libraries.

Courtesy: Prof. Dr. Mayda Hocevar, Universidad de Los Andes

Whether from Syria or Iran, Turkey or Ethiopia: in 2016, researchers from many parts of the world had to leave their own countries. The Humboldt Foundation, together with the Federal Foreign Office, has launched the Philipp Schwartz Initiative which finds places for endangered and persecuted researchers at German universities.

Humboldt Kosmos: the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s magazine (No. 106/2016)
Who Is Eligible For A Philipp Schwartz Fellowship?

✓ Threatened researchers from any academic field and any country of origin who have completed their doctorate

✓ Do not reside or have not been resident outside their own country for more than 3 years

✓ Possess language skills required to conduct their research

✓ Possess academic qualifications (e.g. publications)

✓ Possess potential to be integrated into the (research-related) job market

What Are The Elements Of An Application?

- Concept for a sustainable support infrastructure for threatened researchers
- Application for a Philipp Schwartz fellowship including confirmation that the researcher is threatened
- Financing Plan

Application is done by host institution


How Can A Threat To A Researcher Be Confirmed In The Context Of The PSI?

1. By way of a residence status in the context of an asylum-granting procedure that confirms a recognised threat

2. By way of a credible threat assessment issued by a third party, such as:
   - www.scholarsatrisk.org
   - www.scholarrescuefund.org
   - Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) http://www.cara.ngo
Some Tips When Choosing Germany

• Larger German cities have higher life expenses (Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Berlin)

• Be prepared to learn German A.S.A.P.

• Select carefully the most suitable host institution (they will make the paper work for your application) according to your field:
  • Universities, including universities of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulen")
  • Max Planck Institutes, Helmholtz Institutes, Leibniz Institutes, Fraunhofer Institutes
  • Federal and State Research Institutes
  • Other research-performing institutions

FINDING PROGRAMMES & UNIVERSITIES
https://www.study-in.de/en/plan-your-studies/find-programme-and-university

Life in Germany

• 3,500 EUR/month for up to 2 years

• For a 4-member family:
  • ~33% income for housing (Finding accomodation is sometimes difficult)
  • ~10% for health insurance

• Public school is available and good

• An integration course is usually offered at the begining of the stay.
How attractive might the PSI Fellowship be for scholars at risk?

- Not attractive
- Slightly attractive
- As attractive as other programs
- Very attractive
- Undecided

My Fellowship Is Due, What Next?

- Go back?
  Usually not an option

- Stay?
  Legal status must be verified / renewed

- Go somewhere else?
  This would usually depend on your international contacts / job chances abroad / visa issues
Further Reading


...Dankeschön...
...Thank you...
...Muchas gracias...

http://germanhead.com/blog

Acknowledgments:
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