'Refugees and Higher Education: Hosting and Integrating Scholars and Students'

International Workshop
University of Trento
10-11 December 2019

https://www.unitn.it/sar

Political violence, growing authoritarianism and the ensuing 'refugee crisis' have considerably augmented pressure on higher education institutions to integrate displaced students and scholars. The Strategic Directions[1] (2017-2021) of the UNHCR recognise the importance of refugees' access to university education and research as a fundamental part of its protection and inclusion strategies. Between September 2017 and August 2018, *Scholars at Risk* (SAR) recorded more than 294 cases of risk for individual scholars or wider educational communities, arising in 47 different countries.[2] In 2019, it has received 581 requests of assistance from scholars worldwide.[3]

Different European countries have implemented programs to guarantee access to higher education for displaced students and to support at-risk scholars in continuing their academic work. They try to foster collaboration at national and international level in order to consolidate common strategies.

Forced outflows raise several challenges for receiving universities, in terms of curricula adaptation, recognition of credentials and diplomas and overall integration capacities. They also urge European universities to engage in a self-reflexive assessment of their present capacity to reflect traditional values of academic freedom, social inclusiveness and equality.

The organisation of the workshop 'Refugees and Higher Education' at the University of Trento draws from the recent creation (February 2019) of the Italian section of Scholars at Risks (SAR Italy[4]): a network comprising today 20 universities and research institutes in the country. Many of them have recently developed or plan to develop strategies of reception and inclusion for students and scholars affected by forced migration, and to enhance training, research and advocacy activities on academic freedom.

The workshop aims at bringing together institutions, organisations, displaced scholars and students involved in the SAR network, in a view to foster a dialogue aimed at sharing good practices, reflecting on common challenges and responses, and developing future collaborations. It is organised by SAR Italy together with the Rectorate Office of 'Equality & Diversity'[5] and the International Migration Laboratory of the University of Trento. It is open to all scholars, students, administrative staff and members of the civil society.

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[1] https://www.unhcr.org/excom/announce/5894558d4/unhcrs-strategic-directions-
[2] https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SAR-Free-to-Think.pdf. Attacks range from killings and imprisonment, to prosecution, job loss, expulsion and travel restrictions.
[3] Communication of SAR Protection Office in September 2019: the 'Free To Think Report 2019' is currently in publication.
[4] University of Padova, 19 February 2019: https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/sections/sar-italy/.
[5] https://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/53111/equality-diversity.

Tuesday 10.12.2019
'Refugees in Higher education: European Perspectives'
Room 20 (Aula Andreatta), Department of Sociology and Social Research (DSRS),
Via Verdi 26 (II Floor)

9.00 – 9.30
Institutional greetings
Paolo Collini, Rector of the University of Trento,
Barbara Poggio, Department of Sociology and Social Research and Vice-Chancellor of
        'Equality & Diversity'
Ester Gallo, Department of Sociology and Social Research and SAR Italy National Co-
        coordinator
Fulvio Cortese, Faculty of Law and International Migration Laboratory
Mirko Bisesti, Autonomous Province of Trento – Assessor for Education, University Research
        and Culture

9.30 – 11.00
Moderator: Giuseppe Sciortino, Department of Sociology and Social Research and Vice-
        Chancellor for Research Enhancement

Angelo Pittaluga, UNHCR
Refugees and Tertiary Education in UNHCR strategy

Prem Rajaram Kumar, Central European University
*Responding to Refugee Inequality and Exclusion in Higher Education in Europe: Moving
Beyond the 'Integration' Paradigm*

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break
DSRS, Internal Hall, Ground Floor

11.15 – 13.15
Session I: Hosting and Integrating Refugee Students
Moderator: Barbara Poggio, University of Trento

Catalina Jerez, University of Barcelona
Rethinking inclusion of refugees in Higher education. Lessons learnt and main challenges.

Alessandra Scagliarini, University of Bologna
*University of Bologna and its welcome to refugees: UNI-CO-RE University Corridors for
Refugees and the Value of Partnerships*

Students' Perspectives:

Mervat Sayegh, University of Ferrara
What is a Refugee Student?

Joy Ehikioya, University of Trento
The University Community is Still For Me

13.15 – 14.30 Lunch Break
DSRS, Internal Hall, Ground Floor

14.30 – 17.00
Session II: At-risk Scholars and University Strategies of Protection
Moderator: Ester Gallo, University of Trento

Marit Egner, University of Oslo (Academic Refugee Project)
Increasing the Network to Support Researchers At Risk in Europe

Mubashar Hasan, SAR Scholar, University of Oslo
The Cost of Asking Dangerous Question

Stephen Wordsworth, The Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA)
'*What do At-Risk Scholars Really Need? - Different Ways of Helping*'

Ekrem Duzen, Bielefeld University
Experiential Insights for a Scholar at Risk Program: From Planning to Mentoring

Gabriele Nicoli, Francesca Helm and Claudia Padovani, University of Padova
Learning by doing. The Padova Experience with SAR: Hosting and Networking

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee Break
DSRS, Internal Hall, Ground Floor

17.30 – 19.00
Projection of the Documentary
'*Science in Exile. Four Researchers in Flight from War, Their Dream of Science in Time of Peace'* (37')

Director: Nicole Leghissa
Producer: The World Academy of Science (TWAS)
Introduces: Roberta Altin, University of Trieste

20.00 – 22.00 Social Dinner
Restaurant 'Il Simposio' (Via Rosmini 19 - http://www.ilsimposio.net/index.html)
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Wednesday 11.12.2019

'How to Host': Sharing Good Practices and Plans Ahead'
Room 20 (Aula Andreatta), Department of Sociology and Social Research (DSRS),
Via Verdi 26 (II Floor)

During this session, we will present and discuss the ongoing protection programs for students and scholars developed by some of the institutions that are members of SAR Italy. Drawing also from other European experiences, the aim is to identify specific legal, economic, administrative, educational/research strategies and to start planning future collaborations.

9.00 – 11.00

Graziella Gaglione, University of Rome 'La Sapienza'
The experience of Sapienza University of Rome with Regards to Refugees and Migrant Youth

Andrea Pendezzini, University of Turin
The Reception of Refugee Students at the University of Turin: The UNIRESST, passi@unito and UNIT-EDU Projects

Alessandro Caforio, International Telematic University UNINETTUNO.
University for Refugees and Rebuild Project: A New Mission for Higher Education

Elena Asciutti, European University Institute
The EUI Refugee Initiative

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, University of Macerata
From Istanbul to Macerata: a Brief Experience of Solidarity

Ester Gallo, Barbara Poggio and Paola Bodio, University of Trento
Forced Displacement, the University and the City: Reflections from the Trento Experience

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break
DSRS, Internal Hall, Ground Floor

11.15 – 12.45 Debate and Concluding Remarks

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch
DSRS, Internal Hall, Ground Floor

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14.00 – 17.00 SAR Italy national Assembly
(only for SAR Italy delegates)
Meeting Room II, Department of Sociology and Social Research (DSRS),
Via Verdi 26 (II Floor)