

# LIBERTAS

## *Spaces and practices of academic freedom*

University of Padova

22-24 June 2022

Beato Pellegrino Complex – via Vendramini 13, Padova

The event is held in presence and online. Selected sessions are streamed live

### Outline and programme

Registration form [in presence](#)

Registration for [remote participation](#)

To celebrate eight centuries of commitment to the protection and promotion of academic freedom and to revive such commitment the University of Padova, in collaboration with **Scholars at Risk Italy** and **Scholars at Risk Europe**, is organising an international conference to discuss ***Libertas. Spaces and practices of academic freedom.***

The aim of this conference is to promote knowledge and understanding of processes that – across the centuries and still today – have put academic freedom as a specific form of freedom of expression at stake, and to expand the debate on themes related to academic freedom and its violations.

The conference adopts a trans-disciplinary approach to academic freedom, informed by historical awareness and evidence of current threats, and it brings into dialogue voices from academia and other sectors as well as at-risk scholars. Furthermore, the conference considers the multi-level nature of commitment to academic freedom: local, national and European.

#### Organizers

- University of Padova, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies (SPGI)
- University of Padova, Department of Historical and Geographical Sciences and Antiquities (DISSGEA)
- Scholars at Risk Italy
- Scholars at Risk Europe
- with the support of the University of Padova International Relations Division

#### Partners

- Inspireurope project
- SAR Sweden

## Conference programme

### June 22

9.30 - 12.30

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula 3

Pre-conference event

#### **Training activity dedicated to displaced scholars hosted in Italy and Sweden**

Swetaly Collaborative programme - **Rebuilding careers in exile Workshop**

***Strengthening online teaching and network competence of 'at-risk scholars' to enrich internationalisation at home***

Lunch break (buffet)

14.30 - 17.30

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

Pre-conference event

#### **Session dedicated to members of SAR Italy and SAR Sweden**

##### **Third Swetaly Workshop - SAR Student Advocacy Seminars and Responsible Internationalisation**

Workshop on academic freedom in the context of the Swetaly collaboration. The aim is to exchange knowledge and reflection on 'responsible internationalisation' as well as exchange practices of doing advocacy with students through advocacy seminars and legal clinics.

17.45 - 18.30

Aperitif with music in the courtyard of Beato Pellegrino Complex

### June 23

9.30 - 10.15

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna (live streaming for general public)

#### **Opening and institutional welcome addresses**

Chair: SAR Italy

- Vice-Rector of University of Padova, Cristina Basso
- Vice-Chancellor of University of Gothenburg, Eva Wiberg
- Vice-Chancellor of Stockholm University, Astrid Söderbergh Widding
- Italian Rectors' Conference, Maurizio Tira TBC
- SAR Europe, Denise Roche
- Dean of Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, Elena Pariotti
- Dean of Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World, Gianluigi Baldo

10.30 - 13.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

**Session I** (live streaming for general public)

**Book launch: *Libertas. Tra religione, politica e saperi/Libertas. Between religion, politics and knowledge***

Chairs: Andrea Caracausi and Paola Molino (University of Padova)

Presentation of the 800 years book series *Patavina Libertas: Annalisa Oboe* (University of Padova)

Introduction by the volume editors, Andrea Caracausi, Paola Molino, Dennj Solera (University of Padova)

Themed interventions:

*Censorship/circolazione libraria* - Hanna Marcus (Harvard university)

*Students/layers of freedom* - Cynthia Klestinec (University of Miami)

*Centre for Human rights* - Giulia Albanese (University of Padova)

*Internationalisation/foreign students* - Giulia Zornetta e Cristina La Rocca (University of Padova)

*Women and academic freedom* - Andrea Martini (University of Padova)

Q&A

Lunch break (buffet)

14.30 - 16.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

**Session II** (live streaming for general public)

**Round table: *European Level Action to Protect Academic Freedom***

The aim of this session is to raise awareness of the number of welcome initiatives at European level, and to discuss the work underway for the translation of those principled visions into concrete actions at the level of national ministries, networks and universities.

Chairs: Claudia Padovani (University of Padova, SAR Italy co-coordinator) and Denise Roche (SAR Europe)

Video message by David Lega (member of European Parliament)

Speakers:

Mitic Marija (Policy Analyst of MSCA unit)

Slaven Misljencevic (Policy Officer, European Commission)

Axel Leisenberg (co-chair of the European Research Area subgroup on Global approach to science and research)

Q&A

16.30 - 18

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

### Session III

#### ***Refugee scholarship and refugee knowledges of Europe: of challenges and precarious balances***

Building on research within the fields of exile studies and critical migration studies and drawing links between historical and contemporary “refugee scholarship”, this session strives to overcome the bias of methodological nationalism and Eurocentrism in discussing the multifaceted forms of knowledge, and to questions concepts such as hospitality, solidarity, humanitarianism, *caritas* in relation to academic freedom and the lived experiences of knowledge workers.

Chair: Prof. Alessandro Paccagnella (University of Padova)

Speakers:

Magdalena Kmak (Åbo Akademi University)

Ali Ali (University of Helsinki, SAR scholar)

Asli Vatansever (Bard College, Berlin)

Testimonials from at-risk scholars currently hosted in Europe

Discussant:

Ester Gallo (University of Trento)

Q&A

18.45 - 20.30

**Guided tour of main University buildings: Spaces of libertas**

## June 24

9.00 - 10.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

### Session IV

#### ***Framing advocacy and internationalisation revised***

This session focuses on advocacy initiatives for academic freedom

Chair: Mara Matta (La Sapienza Università di Roma)

Speakers:

Dennj Solera (University of Bologna) - *On the history of support networks*

Denise Roche (SAR Europe) - Doing advocacy for academic freedom in the EU context

Katrin Kinzelbach (GPPi) - The Academic Freedom Index as a tool to carry out advocacy and rethink university ranking

Discussant:

Matteo Vespa (European Students Union)

Q&A

10.00 - 10.45

**Launch of a Students Manifesto on Academic Freedom**

Participants from the SAR Student advocacy seminar organised at the University of Padova during the spring semester 2022, in collaboration with European SAR seminars.

11.00 - 12.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

**Session V**

***Involving students in advocacy as responsible internationalisation***

This session showcases the activities carried out by SAR members in Italy - students advocacy seminars and legal clinic - in collaboration with similar international initiatives

Chair: Francesca Helm (University of Padova, SAR Italy co-coordinator)

Speakers:

Adriano Mansi (University of Padova) *Struggles /manifesto per il futuro*

Participants from the SAR Student advocacy seminar organised at the University of Padova during the spring semester 2022 (advocacy case: Belarus) and contributions from Legal clinics from the Universities of Torino

Respondents:

Sofia Giunta (Students' representative UniPD)

Elis Wibacke (Student's representative from Stockholm University)

Q&A

12.00 - 13.30

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

**Session VI (live streaming for general public)**

***Protecting academic freedom: call for an Italian national program for scholarships***

This session aims at presenting and advocating for SAR Italy's proposal for a national program of scholarships for at-risk researchers and students by sharing international experiences and highlighting specific challenges and needs in the Italian legal and administrative framework.

Chair: Ester Gallo (University of Trento, SAR Italy co-coordinator) and Gianmario Demuro (University of Cagliari)

International hosting and support experiences:

Emily Borzick, Scholars Rescue Fund; Arien Mack, New University in Exile Consortium; Christina Rogers, Academics in Solidarity; Julia Runte, Global Campus of Human Rights; Michael Barry, Institute for Afghan Studies/American University in Afghanistan

Participants from the SAR Student advocacy seminar organised at the University of Padova during the spring semester 2022. Advocacy case: a national program for scholarships for students

Respondents:

Maurizio Tira, University of Brescia and CRUI (TBC); Italian Senate Commission for Human Rights, Giorgio Fede (TBC)

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ANNI



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DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

**Spigi**  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE,  
GIURIDICHE E STUDI INTERNAZIONALI  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

**DSSGeA**  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE STORICHE,  
GEOGRAFICHE E DELL'ANTICHITÀ

13.30 – 13.45

**Conference closing remarks**

SAR Italy

Lunch break

15.00 - 18.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula Magna

**SAR Italy national assembly**

15.00 - 18.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula 3

**Training activity dedicated to displaced scholars hosted in Italy and Sweden**

**Swetaly Collaborative programme - Rebuilding careers in exile Workshop**

***EU funding opportunities***

15.00 - 18.00

Beato Pellegrino Complex, Aula 4

**Students (international) networking and strategy meeting**

**SCHOLARS AT RISK**  
EUROPE

**Inspireurope**  
Supporting Researchers at Risk

**S W E T A L Y**

**SCHOLARS AT RISK**  
SWEDEN SECTION

**SCHOLARS AT RISK**  
ITALY SECTION