

Academics in Solidarity Network Conference

Regaining Lost Knowledge – Connecting Research at Home and in Exile

21-22 November 2019

Venue: Henry Ford Building, Freie Universität Berlin

Academics in Solidarity (AiS) is a peer-mentoring program that connects exiled researchers and established scholars in Germany, Lebanon and Jordan. It seeks to create a network of solidarity, strengthen the value of cross-cultural research cooperation and open up new perspectives within the academic environment of the host country. The program offers support to displaced and endangered scholars through mentoring, academic counselling, systematic network building, and funding of small research endeavors. It further benefits mentors by offering them special training as well as administrative and technical support both prior to and throughout the mentoring process. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The network conference will signify the launch of a new stage of *Academics in Solidarity*. As of today, more than 80 displaced and endangered scholars have registered as mentees with AiS. The conference will give them the opportunity to present their research to a wider community, bring them together with established scholars and mentors and expand their professional and academic networks. The conference will further serve as a platform for exchange among key stakeholders representing support programs for at-risk scholars, research funding organizations, expert community and AiS partner institutions in Germany, Lebanon and Jordan.

Provisional program

| DAY I: THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2019 | | HENRY FORD BUILDING |
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| 10:00 – 10:30 | Conference opening <u>Welcome</u> : Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler , President, Freie Universität Berlin <u>Opening remarks</u> : Peter Webers , Head of Division Cooperation with Africa and the Middle East, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) <u>Introduction to AiS</u> : Dr. Florian Kohstall , Head Academics in Solidarity, Freie Universität Berlin | Lecture Hall A (ground floor) |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | Keynote speech: Research in Exile: Recent Histories of Displaced Scholarship Prof. Dr. Azade Seyhan , Fairbank Professor in the Humanities and Professor of German and Comparative Literature, Bryn Mawr College; American Academy in Berlin | Lecture Hall A (ground floor) |

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| 11:15 – 12:30 | Panel discussion: Regaining lost knowledge and academic solidarity <u>Panelists:</u> Prof. Dr. Nil Mutluer , Humboldt University of Berlin Dr. Isabella Löhr , Universität Osnabrück Dr. Adnan Kanbar , Karlsruhe Institute of Technology | Lecture Hall A (ground floor) |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Networking lunch & poster exhibition | Foyer upper floor |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | Parallel interdisciplinary research workshops and an e-poster presentations session Presentations by mentees of <i>Academics in Solidarity</i> | Conference rooms & Senate Assembly Hall |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break | Foyer upper floor |
| 16:00 – 18:00 | Roundtable: Creating niches for scholars in exile Stakeholder discussion on current and future opportunities for displaced scholars in German and European academia and beyond | Senate Assembly Hall |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | Networking dinner | Foyer upper floor |
| DAY II: FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2019 | | Henry Ford Building |
| From 08:30 | Good morning coffee & informal exchange | Foyer upper floor |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | Expert discussion: Opportunities and challenges of cross-regional cooperation Focus on the situation of displaced scholars in Lebanon and Jordan – discussion by experts in the field | Senate Assembly Hall |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee break | Foyer upper floor |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | The way ahead & concluding remarks Summary of the two days by rapporteurs. Official end of the conference | Senate Assembly Hall |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Networking lunch | Foyer upper floor |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Coaching for mentors & room for exchange Focus: Intercultural aspects of mentoring and expectations management | Conference rooms |
| 13:00 – 16:30 | Small group trainings for mentees Training 1: The specifics of job applications in Germany Training 2: Preparing research project proposals | |