

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund Forum: Protecting Scholarship and Promoting Partnerships

Speaker Biographies

Maija Airas

Counsellor of Education

Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)

Maija Airas has devoted a major part of her professional career to promotion of internationalization of Higher Education in Finland, first having responsibility over European and bilateral mobility and cooperation programs, and then, since 2007, as the Head of Section for Higher Education Cooperation at the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI). In her current position, Ms. Airas represents EDUFI in a number of national-level steering committees focusing on internationalization of Higher Education as well as integration of refugees and recently-arrived migrants into the Finnish education system and the society at large.

Arash Alaei

IIE-SRF Alumnus from Iran

Tajikistan National AIDS program

Dr. Arash Alaei is a medical doctor who founded the Global Institute for Health and Human Rights at University at Albany with his brother, Dr. Kamiar Alaei. He served as a Clinical Associate Professor at School of Public Health. Dr. Alaei has been working on issues related to health and human rights for nearly two decades. In particular, he focuses on HIV/AIDS and harm reduction of drug use in the Middle East, including in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and has influenced many Muslim majority countries to break the silence on HIV/AIDS. Previously, Dr. Alaei and his brother, Dr. Kamiar Alaei, developed several harm-reduction programs in Iran, including Global Health in the Middle East and Central Asia, an HIV/AIDS training program for regional health experts. The innovative “Triangular Clinics” they initiated provided treatment for STI infections, HIV/AIDS and drug-addiction, offering patients clean needles, methadone, condoms, antiretroviral therapy and other medical services. The World Health Organization (WHO) named these clinics the “Best Practice Model” for the Middle East and North Africa. He is senior consultant for Tajikistan National AIDS program to reach their goal by support of USAID.

Kamiar Alaei

IIE-SRF Alumnus from Iran

University at Albany

Dr. Kamiar Alaei is a medical doctor and lawyer, Public Service Professor in the Department of Public Administration and Policy, and the co-founder of the Global Institute for Health and Human Rights. He is an expert on HIV/AIDS, drug policy, global health and international human rights law. Dr. Alaei and his brother, Dr. Arash Alaei, co-founded the first “Triangular Clinic” for three target groups in Iran (drug users, HIV patients, and STD cases), documented by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a “Best Practice Model” for HIV/AIDS and injecting drug users prevention and care. In addition to WHO/CAIRO, Dr. Alaei has served as a temporary advisor or consultant to the WHO in Pan American Region (PAHO) to expand health and human rights training

programs in prison systems. Dr. Alaei received his M.D. from Isfahan Medical University and his Master of Public Health (M.P.H) in epidemiology from Tehran Medical University. He also received a Master of Science (MS) in International Health from Harvard University, his Doctoral degree on Health Policy and Management from SUNY-University at Albany and his master of studies in international human rights law from the University of Oxford.

Mark A. Angelson

*Vice Chairman, Institute of International Education
Chairman, IIE Scholar Rescue Fund*

Mark A. Angelson is Vice Chairman of IIE, the nonprofit world leader in international education and training, which administers the Fulbright Scholarships and hundreds of other programs from offices around the globe. He is Chairman of IIE's 2019 Centennial Committee and Chairman of IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund and its scholar selection committee, and is co-author of several articles about the efficacy of saving professors and entire national academies from persecution the world over. Mr. Angelson is Vice Chairman of the Joseph Biden Foundation and of the Board of Governors of Rutgers University. He is a trustee of Northwestern University and Adjunct Professor of Mergers and Acquisitions at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. Mr. Angelson is a member of the board of directors of Quad/Graphics, Inc., a NYSE-listed multinational corporation that is the Americas' largest provider of printing and multichannel media strategies, of the Council on Foreign Relations and its membership committee, and of the Economic Club of New York. Mr. Angelson served as Chairman/CEO of several large public companies, including as CEO of RR Donnelley. He served as the Deputy Mayor of Chicago and as Chairman of MidOcean Partners, an international investment firm. Previously he had a lengthy and distinguished career as an international lawyer in each of Singapore, New York and London. Mr. Angelson's many honors include membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the Pilgrims (New York and London), the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce, and the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni, and his appointment as Richard D Heffner Public Service Professor at Rutgers. He received an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the John Marshall Law School, the Harold H Hines Award from the United Negro College Fund and the inaugural Alumni Service Award from Rutgers Law School.

Maxmillian Angerholzer III

*Executive Vice President
Institute of International Education*

Before joining IIE as Executive Vice President, Maxmillian Angerholzer III served as President and CEO of the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress (CSPC) in Washington, D.C. CSPC is a non-partisan policy organization established in 1965, which applies lessons of leadership and history to current domestic and international challenges and promotes cooperation between The White House, Congress, and the private sector. Mr. Angerholzer was also Managing Director of the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, a New York philanthropic institution that awards grants to support scientific and medical research, as well as science and technology policy, education, international relations, and security programs. After years of active service on the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund Selection Committee, Mr. Angerholzer was elected to the IIE Board of Trustees in 2016, serving on the Budget and Finance, Centennial, and Scholar Rescue Fund Committees. He stepped down from this role in 2017 to assume his current position. Mr. Angerholzer holds a Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) in Political Science from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and a Master of Arts in International Science & Technology Policy from The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. He is a member of the Economic Club of Washington, DC and serves on the boards of the Washington National Cathedral and the Salvation Army of the National Capital Area.

Mustafa Bahran

IIE-SRF Fellow from Yemen
University of Oklahoma

A distinguished nuclear physicist with more than 20 years of experience, Dr. Mustafa Bahran has served as a senior government administrator and contributor to national and international nuclear energy initiatives. Serving as Yemen's Minister of Electricity and Energy from 2007-2008 and as the founding director of Yemen's National Atomic Energy Commission from 1999-2008, he utilized his expertise in energy security and particle physics to improve electrification in Yemen's rural governorates while promoting nuclear responsibility in the country and abroad. From 1995–2007, he served as Yemen's first science and technology advisor to President Ali Abdallah Saleh, publishing during his tenure the *Yemeni Journal of Science* and co-founding the Yemeni Scientific Research Foundation. Dr. Bahran holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Oklahoma (OU) and has served in multiple academic positions, including several appointments at OU and a professorship at Sana'a University. With IIE-SRF support, he joined the OU Department of Physics and Astronomy, where he taught courses on physics and presented on the Yemeni civil war.

Britta Baron

Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President
University of Alberta

Britta Baron is Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International) at the University of Alberta. She joined the university in that role in August 2006. Between 1983 and 2004, Ms. Baron held various leadership roles in the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), including Director of its offices in New York and London. With degrees in Italian, French, History, and German from the University of Göttingen, the University of Florence and the University of Bonn, she was appointed a visiting professor in Modern Languages at the University of Keele in the UK and has taught in a Master's program at the University of London's Institute of Education. She received an honorary doctorate from Oxford Brookes University. Ms. Baron is a member of the Governing Board of Bielefeld University (Germany), the NAFSA Board of Governors, the Executive Committee of the International Commission of APLU, the Board of German-Canadian Centre for Innovation and Research, the Management Committee of CALDO, a consortium of Canadian research universities committed to advancing the country's international education connections and of the BMW Center for European Studies at Georgetown University. She is a frequent speaker on topics relating to comparative higher education and internationalization and has published widely. She is co-author, with Dr. Carl Amrhein, of "Building Success in a Global University," published in 2013.

Simten Coşar

IIE-SRF Fellow from Turkey
Cornell University

Dr. Simten Coşar is a specialist in modern Turkish political history with more than two decades of experience in Turkish higher education. With a Ph.D. in political science from Bilkent University (BU) in Ankara, her interdisciplinary research analyzes the democratic principles of equality and freedom in modern Turkey. In the English-speaking and reading world, she is the co-editor of *Universities in the Neoliberal Era: Academic Cultures and Critical Perspectives* (UK: Palgrave MacMillan, 2017) (with Hakan Ergül), and *Silent Violence: Neoliberalism, Islamist Politics and the AKP Years in Turkey* (Canada: Red Quill Books, 2012) (with Gamze Yücesan-Özdemir). She has held professional positions at BU and Hacettepe University, and also undertaken visiting positions at universities in the U.S. and Canada. Her highly-praised teaching agenda has comprised undergraduate and graduate courses on topics including women and media, political communications, and

civil society and democracy. An IIE-SRF fellowship allowed Dr. Coşar to join Cornell University's Institute for European Studies, where she is conducting research on feminist academics' experiences in the context of neoliberal transformations within universities.

Allan E. Goodman

President & CEO

Institute of International Education

Dr. Allan E. Goodman is the sixth President of IIE, the leading not-for-profit organization in the field of international educational exchange and development training. IIE conducts research on international academic mobility and administers the Fulbright program sponsored by the United States Department of State, as well as over 200 other corporate, government and privately-sponsored programs. Dr. Goodman is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a founding member of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), Co-President of the Partner University Fund (PUF) Grant Review Committee, and a member of the Jefferson Scholarship selection panel. He also serves on the Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees of the Education Above All Foundation. Dr. Goodman has a Ph.D. in Government from Harvard, an M.P.A. from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and a B.S. from Northwestern University. He was awarded the inaugural Gilbert Medal for Internationalization by Universitas 21.

Daniela Kaisth

President, Gratias Partners

Coordinator, Baden-Württemberg Fund for Persecuted Scholars

Daniela Kaisth is a Philanthropy Advisor with 25 years of experience launching, managing, and scaling large and impactful philanthropic and humanitarian programs. As President and Founder of Gratias Partners, she helps donors to give more effectively and non-profits to develop new strategic initiatives through an emphasis on collaboration and high-impact philanthropy. She has special expertise in the area of higher education in emergencies, and currently manages the Baden-Württemberg Fund for Persecuted Scholars, a new public-private partnership to rescue threatened academics and place them in safe haven in the German state of Baden-Württemberg. From 2005 to 2015, Ms. Kaisth was a Vice President at IIE, where she managed development, communications, and emergency services for students and scholars, leading the establishment of IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund, Syria Consortium, and Artist Protection Fund. She has an M.A. from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), a Diploma from the Johns Hopkins Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Kaisth serves on the Board of Princeton in Africa, as an executive committee member of Amici di Bologna and the SAIS NY Alumni Club, and on the advisory boards of Ben's Lighthouse, EngageAsia, and the R Ventures Foundation.

James R. King

Assistant Director

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund

James R. King is Assistant Director of the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund. A former Fulbright Fellow in Jordan, Mr. King holds a master's degree in Islamic Studies from Columbia University and has published original research on Yemen's Zaydi community through a research grant with the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. Previously, he worked on a state stabilization project in Yemen and with the Cordoba Initiative on its Shariah Index Project to measure the quality of governance within contemporary Muslim-majority states. Mr. King is

the co-author of two original studies published by IIE and the University of California, Davis that focus on the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on higher education: *We Will Stop Here and Go No Further: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Turkey* and *The War Follows Them: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Lebanon*. Mr. King has lived and studied in Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen.

Kader Konuk

*Professor and Chair of Turkish Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen
Director, Academy in Exile*

Dr. Kader Konuk is Professor and Chair of Turkish Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. She is the director of the newly founded Academy in Exile, located in Berlin and Essen. Between 2001-2013 she was Assistant and Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and German Studies at the University of Michigan. Trained as a comparatist in German, Turkish, and English literature, Dr. Konuk focuses on the disciplinary nexus between literary criticism, cultural studies, and intellectual history. Her research is situated at the intersections between religious and ethnic communities, beginning with the Ottoman modernization reforms and continuing on to Turkish-German relations in the twenty-first century. Her work examines cultural practices that evolve in the context of East-West relations (ambassadorial missions, travel, migration, and exile). In her monograph *East West Mimesis: Auerbach in Turkey* (Stanford UP 2010), she investigates the relationship between German-Jewish exile and the modernization of the humanities in Turkey. *East West Mimesis* won the prizes for the best book in both of her disciplines. It was selected for the René Wellek Prize by the American Comparative Literature Association and the DAAD award by the German Studies Association. In her current book project, Dr. Konuk questions the common equation of secularism with Western modernity and is interested in the connection between religious critique, the freedom of speech, and literary discourses in the history of republican Turkey.

Rick H. Lee

*Director of Global Programs and Relations
Centers for Global Advancement & International Affairs, Rutgers University*

Dr. Rick H. Lee is the Director of Global Programs and Partnerships at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. His responsibilities include program development and implementation, finding avenues to advance new and existing international partnerships, and identifying external program and funding opportunities. He is a member-leader of NAFSA's international education leadership knowledge community and serves on the executive committee of the Commission on International Initiatives of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. Dr. Lee earned his Ph.D. at Rutgers, where he has taught courses on HIV/AIDS literature, LGBTQ literature, and Asian American studies. He is the recipient of the School of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education and the Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award, one of Rutgers' highest distinctions, for his contributions to advancing the values of diversity, equity, access, and inclusion on campus.

Edward W. Lempinen

*Public Information Officer
The World Academy of Sciences*

Edward W. Lempinen joined The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) as public information officer in 2013. He served as producer of the new TWAS documentary, "Science in Exile", and has played a leadership role in the Academy's initiatives in support of refugee and displaced scientists. In his years at TWAS, he has provided communications support to a range of programmes in education, research and science diplomacy, traveling

frequently to the Middle East, Africa and China. Before joining TWAS, Mr. Lempinen served for nine years as senior writer at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), where he wrote and edited a monthly column in the journal *Science* and managed the association's website. Previously, he was the news director at Salon.com, a pioneering online news site. He has been a reporter and editor at U.S. newspapers including the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Newsday* (New York).

Laura Lohéac

Executive Director

Programme d'Aide à l'Accueil en Urgence des Scientifiques en Exil (PAUSE), Collège de France

Laura Lohéac is the Executive Director of the *Programme d'Aide à l'Accueil en Urgence des Scientifiques en Exil* (PAUSE) at the Collège de France since May 2016. Previously, she was advisor for international solidarity actions at the office of the Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research Thierry Mandon, where she set up PAUSE. An expert in international and strategic issues, Ms. Lohéac began her professional career in 2003 at the French General Secretariat for National Defense, a Prime Minister's service, as desk officer in charge of strategic, political and security issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. She joined, in 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Sub-Saharan Africa's "chargée de mission" at the Policy Planning Staff, before being appointed advisor in charge of speeches at the Minister's office, Bernard Kouchner. From 2010 to 2016, she continued her career at the Ministry of Defense, as the head of the Department of Bilateral Defense Relations with countries of North America, Europe and post-Soviet area. Ms. Lohéac graduated from the *Ecole Normale Supérieure*, the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University (Master's degree) and the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po).

Binalakshmi Nepram

IIE-SRF Fellow from India

Connecticut College

Named one of the "100 most influential people in the world" working toward armed violence reduction by the UK-based monitoring group Action on Armed Violence, Binalakshmi Nepram works through her academic research and activist interventions to address the issues of gender-based violence and small arms proliferation in the northeast Indian state of Manipur. She is the founding director multiple organizations including the Control Arms Foundation of India and the Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network, which provides psycho-social, legal, and economic support to some of the more than 20,000 women affected by gun violence in northeast India. Ms. Nepram, who holds a master's degree in international studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, regularly shares her research and delivers academic lectures throughout Europe, North America, and South Asia. IIE-SRF support has enabled her to join Connecticut College as a Visiting Scholar-in-Residence.

Ahmad Sadiddin

IIE-SRF Alumnus from Syria

Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dr. Ahmad Sadiddin specializes in farming systems and rural development, the economics of water, agricultural risk management, agricultural policy analysis, economics of climate change adaptation, economics of frauds in food systems, and economics of structural and rural transformations. Born in Damascus, Syria, he holds a Ph.D in agricultural economics and policy from the University of Naples Federico II, and a master of science degree in agricultural economics from University of London Imperial College. Dr. Sadiddin worked for the National Agricultural Policy Center in Damascus from 2003-2012 and, with IIE-SRF support, joined the

University of Florence as a visiting researcher from 2013-2016. He is currently an economist at the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Sarah Willcox

Director

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund

Sarah Willcox is the Director of the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund. With over 15 years in higher education grants administration and non-profit management, she oversees the IIE-SRF operations, including partnerships, program policy, outreach, and communications. Ms. Willcox joined IIE-SRF in 2003 after three years with IIE as an advisor to international Fulbright students. She represents IIE-SRF in various initiatives and partnerships, including the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), the Welfare of Scientists Working Group of the American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the European Union's Temporary Relocation Platform (EUTRP), and the newly formed Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants (UARRM). In addition to her experience in the U.S., Ms. Willcox has studied and worked in North and Southern Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.