

INSPIREUROPE+ Stakeholder Forum 2025

Programme | 7 May | Collège de France, Paris



Funded by the European Union

About Collège de France

The **Collège de France** is a public institution of higher education and research with a unique ambition and mission. Since 1530, the Collège de France has fulfilled a dual vocation: to be both the place for the most audacious research and the place for its lectures, which are offered freely to everyone interested, without any registration or diploma prerequisite. Dedicated to fundamental research, which it develops in close partnership with the CNRS, Inserm and numerous scientific and cultural institutions, the Collège de France has a singular characteristic: it teaches "knowledge in the making in all fields of literature, science and the arts".

About PAUSE

The **French hosting programme for scientists and artists in exile** (PAUSE) is a joint initiative between public authorities and the academic community, hosted by the Collège de France. Since its creation in 2017, PAUSE has been ensuring the protection of researchers and artists whose lives, freedom, and work are threatened.

Addressing geopolitical crises, PAUSE has provided refuge and a future to nearly 700 researchers and artists from around forty countries over eight years. PAUSE facilitates their reception in over I40 cultural and research institutions in France by co-funding host institutions and facilitating their socio-professional integration. Its action aims to contribute to the protection and preservation of academic and artistic freedoms, as well as cultural, scientific, and intellectual heritage





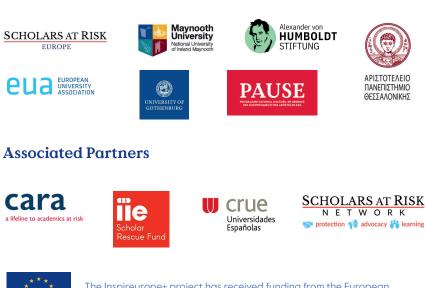


About Inspireurope+

Since 2019, **Inspireurope+** aims at establishing a robust and enduring pan-European support framework for researchers at risk. Coordinated by Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University and funded by the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the project strives to **inform policy development across Europe concerning at-risk scholars** and to **bridge existing gaps between national and European support mechanisms**, as well as between the **academic and non-academic sectors**. A key focus of Inspireurope+ is enhancing career development opportunities for these researchers and preparing the European work environment to be more welcoming and inclusive.

By engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, Inspireurope+ endeavors to create a **more coordinated, effective, and long-term system of support**, ultimately fostering a safer and more inclusive academic landscape for researchers facing threats to their lives, liberty, or careers.

For more information and resources, please visit : sareurope.eu/inspireurope



Project Partners

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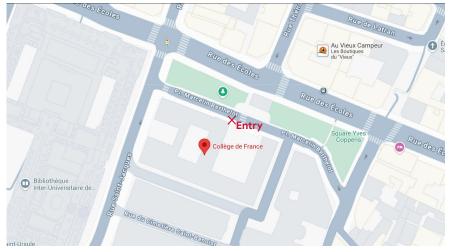
The Inspireurope+ project has received funding from the European Union, under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe.

Event Information

Please note that this event is by invitation only and requires advance registration. The conference language will be English.

Key Information





Entrance to the Collège de France is via the main courtyard located on Place Marcelin Berthelot, through the small gate to the right of the main entrance.

Contact

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COLLÈGE DE FRANCE





Funded by the European Union

Programme

While the initial focus of dedicated initiatives to support researchers at risk is on immediate safety, the issue of long-term socio-professional integration is equally crucial. A significant portion of the scientists at risk may not be able to safely return to their home countries. As highly skilled individuals with unique expertise and perspectives, they bring a significant value to their host countries.

However, opportunities for permanent academic positions can be limited. The private sector, NGOs, and international organizations offer promising alternatives, leveraging their unique skills and experiences. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the 2025 Inspireurope+ Forum aim to identify opportunities, address challenges, and explore innovative solutions to facilitate the integration of researchers at risk into the broader professional landscape.

Plenary session | Amphithéâtre Marguerite de Navarre

8:00 - 8:50 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening statements

- Thomas Römer, Administrator of the Collège de France
- Philippe Baptiste, French Minister of Research and Higher education

9:30 - 10:00

Keynote address: What welcoming scientist in exile brings to innovation?

• **Philippe Aghion**, Professor at the Collège de France, Chair of Economics of Institutions, Innovation and Growth

10:00 - 10:20

Inaugural Address

- Claire Morel, Head of Unit (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), Directorate
 General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC), European Commission
- Frank Geary, Director of Scholars at Risk Europe & Laura Lohéac, Executive Director of PAUSE Programme

10:20 - 10:50 Break | Foyer

10:50 - 11:50

Panel I: Creating opportunities for scientists at risk in the non@-academic sector <u>Moderator</u>: Konstantinos Tararas, Programme specialist, Inclusion, Rights and Intercultural Dialogue Section, UNESCO

Recognizing that scientific freedom extends beyond academia, this panel explores the increasing strategic links between the academic and non-academic sectors. It examines how researchers, including those at risk, can contribute to the broader professional landscape and the support needed for their transition and career growth.

Speakers:

- Clarisse Angelier, General Delegate, Association Nationale Recherche et Technologie
- Andreina Garcia Reyes, Research engieneer in marine geophysics, ABYSSA, PAUSE Alumna
- Svetlana Dimitrova, Coordinator of the EURAXESS Bulgaria Network, Sofia University
- **Myriam Hayatou**, International Director of Science Programmes, Fondation L'Oréal

11:50 - 12:50

Panel 2: Research for impact: empowering civil society

Moderator: Frank Geary, Director, SAR Europe

The panel will examine the link between academic research and its impact on civil society. It will explore how research can serve as a catalyst for addressing social challenges, fostering positive change, and empowering communities. The speakers will share their experiences in bridging the gap between academia and civil society, demonstrating the diverse ways in which research can inform and support social change.

Speakers :

- Liz Awad, Research fellow in Management science, CNAM and PAUSE alumna
- Mursal Dawodi, Postdoctoral research fellow, Technical University of Munich, Founder of FemsTech, PAUSE alumna and PSI fellow
- Egemen Özbek, Academic coordinator of Academy in exile at TU Dortmund

14:50-14:30 Networking Lunch | Foyer - Room 7 - Room 8

Parallel workshops | 14:30 - 16:30

The following two workshops are organized by the Association Bernard Gregory (ABG) Founded in 1980, ABG specializes in the recruitment and career development of doctoral candidates and PhD holders.

Workshop I | Practical career advice on recruitment logic and effective profile presentation for Humanities and Social Sciences researchers | Room 5 For registered scholars only

Moderator: Dr. Kristina Berkut, Association Bernard Gregory

This interactive session shares recruitment insights and strategies to help HSS researchers align their profiles with non-academic job market needs. Industry experts will offer advice on skills development, successful applications, and answer personalized questions during the Q&A.

Speakers :

- Dr. Antoine Maire, Co-founder of SELDON Conseil (France)
- Dr Saeedeh Rezaee Vessal, Head of Marketing Department, École de Management Léonard de Vinci

Workshop 2 | Practical career advice on recruitment logic and effective profile presentation for STEM researchers | Room 2

For registered scholars only

Moderator: Dr Dominika Foretek, Association Bernard Gregory

This interactive session offers strategies to help STEM researchers align their profiles with non-academic job market expectations. Industry experts will share advice on skills development, successful applications, and answer personalized questions during the Q&A.

Speakers :

- Dr. Patricia Layec, Team lead at Nokia Bell Labs
- Dr. Sonja Kühn, Head of Structural Biophysics & Protein Sciences

Workshop 3 | Effective support strategies for the socio-professional integration of at-risk researchers | Amphithéâtre Marguerite de Navarre

Open to all, live streamed online

<u>Moderator</u>: Sarah Blichfeldt, International Administrative Officer and contact person for the Scholars at risk network, University of Gothenburg

Moving beyond immediate emergency measures, this session invites representatives from higher education institutions, academic mentors, and scholars at risk to share their experiences and perspectives on the long-term professional integration of researchers facing displacement. This session offers a platform for representatives of higher education institutions, academic mentors and scholars at risk to share experiences on professional support for researchers across Europe. Topics covered include intercultural issues, mental health, and sustainable professional integration support mechanisms.

Speakers :

- **Oksana Seumenicht**, Programme Director for MSCA4Ukraine, Alexander van Humboldt Foundation
- Clara Malkassian, Clinical psychologist, Co-Director of Association Élan Interculturel
- Omid Hashemi, Artist, Performer, Associate Researcher, PAUSE programme alumni
- Christian Rolando, Emeritus Research Director at CNRS-University of Lille, scientific mentor
- Bayan Almasri, PhD candidate, University of Lille, PAUSE laureate

Workshop 4 | Roundtable for Higher Education Institution leadership on institutional strategies to expand opportunities for researchers at risk | Room Glowinsky

By invitation only

Moderator: Henriette Stoeber, Senior Policy Analyst, EUA & Michael Gaebel, Director Higher Education Unit, EUA

Speakers :

- Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director, Scholars at Risk
- Joanne Pagèze, Vice-President for Internationalisation, University of Bordeaux

The roundtable gives leaders of higher education institutions the opportunity to discuss institutional and national approaches and strategies for supporting researchers at risk. Challenges and opportunities in the current political landscape will be highlighted. Results of the discussion will feed into updated <u>Inspireurope+</u> <u>Policy Recommendations.</u>

Workshop 5 | For European and national initiatives and funding bodies | Room I By invitation only

<u>Moderator:</u> Maike Didero, Programme Director Inspireurope+, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Building on the achievements of initiatives like Inspireurope and Inspireurope+, this session will discuss how to sustain and shape the growing European collaboration for researchers at risk. Participants will address common challenges, such as risk assessments, and explore options for long-term career support within and beyond academia across Europe.

16:30 - 16:45 Short break | Foyer

Closing session | Amphithéâtre Marguerite de Navarre

16:45-17:10 Workshops wrap-up

Reporters:

- Workshop I:
- Workshop 2:
- Workshop 3: Alexander Bikbov, Associated Researcher at CERCEC EHESS
- Workshop 4: Henriette Stoeber, Senior Policy Analyst, EUA
- Workshop 5: Karolina Catoni, Deputy Head, International Center, University of Gothenburg

17:10-17:20

Closing words

Laura Lohéac, Executive Director, PAUSE Programme & **Frank Albrecht**, Head of Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

17:20-17:30

RESTRICA Project spotlight

Pascale Laborier, Special Advisor, Professor for political science

The **Standing for Freedom** exhibition originates from RESTRICA, a research-creation project by Pascale Laborier and Pierre-Jérôme Adjedj. It offers a unique visual exploration of academic exile through juxtaposed photography and objects.

17:30-19:30 Closing Cocktail | Foyer - Room 7 - Room 8







Thomas Römer has been a Professor at the Collège de France since 2007 and currently serves as its Administrator, a position he has held since 2019. A scholar of the Hebrew Bible and its contexts, he previously taught at the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne. He is the author of numerous scientific publications and is a member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

Philippe Baptiste is the Minister for Higher Education and Research in France. He holds a PhD from the University of Technology of Compiègne and is a civil engineer graduate of Mines de Nancy. His extensive career includes research at CNRS and IBM, teaching at École Polytechnique, leadership roles at the Ministry of National Education and the CNRS, and prior to his ministerial role, he served as President of the French Space Agency (Cnes).

Philippe Aghion is a Professor at the Collège de France and INSEAD, and a visiting professor at the London School of Economics. A leading scholar in growth and innovation economics, he notably pioneered, with Peter Howitt, the Schumpeterian growth paradigm. His research examines the design of growth policies and the role of the state. He has received several prestigious awards, including the Yrjo Jahnsson Award and the BBVA "Frontier of Knowledge Award" for "developing an economic growth theory based on the innovation that emerges from the process of creative destruction.



Claire Morel is the Head of Unit in charge of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for the mobility and training of researchers including the development of excellent doctoral programmes, at the European Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Before that, she was the Head of Unit for international cooperation in the same DG, with a particular focus on the international dimension of the Erasmus+ programme and international policy dialogues in higher education and youth issues with various partners of the EU in the world.



Laura Lohéac has been the Executive Director of PAUSE since May 2017 and President of the Association Marianne for Human Rights Defenders since December 2021.

As an expert in international issues, Laura Lohéac held several positions in French administration, including the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and at the office of the Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, where she established PAUSE.



Panel 1 Speakers

Konstantinos Tararas works as programme specialist for UNESCO's Inclusion, Rights and Intercultural Dialogue Section in Paris, contributing to a wider range of the Organization's human rights-related activities. Highlights include the promotion of a human rights-based approach in UNESCO programming and efforts towards the normative clarification of the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. He currently leads work under UNESCO's Programme and Call to Action on Freedom and Safety of Scientists.



Clarisse Angelier helped create the first public-private economic interest grouping (GIE) bringing together Cnam, PSA and Renault in 2000. In 2011, she set up an annual competition to encourage Cifre doctoral students to create their own company. This competition was also organised in Australia (2016, 2017) and India (2017). In 2016, she became the first woman to head the Association Nationale de la Recherche et de la Technologie (ANRT) since its creation in 1953.



Svetlana Dimitrova works as a Project Manager at Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridski". She coordinates national EURAXESS, is devoted to EURAXESS Science4Refugees initiative on European level and leads an international EURAXESS team working on the process of training mentoring and integrating the refugee and displaced researchers in Europe.



Andreina Garcia Reyes is a research engineer specializing in marine geophysics. She holds PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the Institut de Physique du Globe in Paris. Committed to bridging science and society, she co-founded the Rencontres Sciences, Art et Société initiative. She also organizes the videoconference series "Diaspora and Democracy, the ways of action."



Myriam Hayatou is the International Director of Science Programs at the Fondation L'Oréal. From market finance to geopolitics and managing I5+ social impact projects at the World Bank in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, she also holds a degree in Neuropsychology from Berkeley University of California.

Panel 2 Speakers

Frank Geary is Director of Scholars At Risk Europe, the European office of the global Scholars at Risk network hosted at Maynooth University in Ireland. SAR Europe is the coordinating partner of the Inspireurope+ project. Frank has built a career dedicated to civil society, human rights, education & culture. He was Director of IDEA, Ireland's national network for global citizenship education. At PEN International he supported the development of networks and programmes for human rights and freedom of expression in over 70 countries. Frank has advocated for education and civil society to the United Nations, European Union, and national governments.

Liz Awad is a former laureate of the PAUSE programme at the Collège de France. She defended her thesis in Business Management in October 2024 at Cnam Paris, under the supervision of Marie-Astrid Le Theule and Madina Rival. She left Lebanon in 2021 to pursue research on corruption. Her thesis is entitled "Stories of Civil Resistance to Crises in Lebanon: Public Management, Parrhesia, and Moral Entrepreneurship." In 2025, she received the Anticor Ethics Award in the research category.

Mursal Dawodi is a computer scientist and AI researcher focusing on natural language processing (NLP). Dr. Dawodi is a PAUSE alumni and received the 2023 L'Oréal-UNESCO "For Women in Science" Special Prize. She is also a High Impact Ambassador for Women in Data Science (WiDS) and an ambassador of Google Women Techmakers. She's currently a PSI scientist fellow at the Technical University of Munich . She is known for her advocacy for displaced women in STEM and mentors young scholars, particularly from Afghanistan. She is the founder of FemsTech, a non-profit organization supporting women in technology.

Egemen Oezbek is the academic coordinator of Academy in Exile at TU Dortmund, where he supports scholars, journalists, and cultural producers at risk to continue their work in Germany. He is also a researcher specializing in the politics of memory, with a particular emphasis on the Armenian Genocide and commemorations.



















Workshop 1 & 2 Speakers

Kristina Berkut, is International Cooperation Manager at Association Bernard Gregory, where she connects researchers with companies and supports their transition into non-academic careers. With a PhD in Intercultural Management and a background in journalism, communication, and modern literature, she helps international researchers with non-linear paths take confident steps toward a well-considered career plan.

Antoine Maire is the co-founder of SELDON Conseil (France), a consultancy specializing in foresight, innovation, and social acceptability. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science (Sciences Po/CERI). He has deep expertise in geopolitical dynamics in Northeast Asia, particularly Mongolia, and has worked with the French Ministry of Armed Forces. Passionate about science and technology, he strives to integrate social sciences into organizations' innovation strategies.

Dr Saeedeh Rezaee Vessal is an Associate Professor of Marketing and Head of the Digital Marketing Department at EMLV Business School in Paris. She holds a PhD in Marketing from Université Grenoble Alpes and specializes in behavioral psychology, consumer behavior, and patient experience. With several years of experience in different business schools, she has developed a deep understanding of the private higher education sector.

Dominika Foretek, is a former researcher in molecular biology and a strong international background. She successfully navigated a diverse academic journey from engineer degree in Biotechnology to PhD in Biochemistry and postdoctoral research at Institut Curie & Pasteur. Passionate about mentoring and career development of young scientists, as International Cooperation and Training Officer at ABG actively contributes to initiatives that enable early career researchers to explore diverse career paths.

Patricia Layec did her PhD in Telecommunication in partnership between the University of Paris-Sud and Orange. In 2009, she joined Alcatel-Lucent (now Nokia), first working in the business division, then joining Nokia Bell Labs. Since 2016, she is head of the Physics of Optical Networks research team.

Sonja Kühn, did a PhD in Biochemistry and Structural Biology at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology. She advanced her expertise through research experiences at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, University Paris-Sud and Institut Pasteur. After leading the Protein Sciences team at Galapagos, she joined Servier in 2023 where currently she is Head of Structural Biophysics and Computational Chemistry.







Workshop 3 Speakers

Oksana Seumenicht, is a Ukrainian-born physicist and radiobiologist. She held key roles at the Max Delbrück Center, where she developed international PhD programs and now works in strategic research cooperation. As Managing Director of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society, she actively fosters academic collaboration between Germany and Ukraine

Clara Malkassian, is a clinical psychologist who specialized as an intercultural trainer, with a strong focus on inclusive and non-formal methodologies. In addition to her role, she brings extensive experience in European project management in fields ranging from education and mental health to intergenerational learning and inclusion.



Sarah Blichfeldt, is an International Relations Officer at University of Gothenburg's International Centre. She is the university's SAR-coordinator, and responsible for the secretariat of SAR-Sweden.



Omid Hashemi, artist and former PAUSE laureate is the founder of the Rekhneh collective in Iran. He integrates a multidisciplinary approach in his practice, driven by a committed research interest in alternative lifestyles and low-tech solutions. Currently pursuing his artistic research within the "Scènes du monde" laboratory at Université Paris 8, Omid conducts visual anthropology work, including a documentary on the Zagros nomads.



Christian Rolando, is an emeritus senior scientist at the University of Lille and former Deputy Director at CNRS Chemistry. His research covers analytical/physical organic chemistry and now focuses on advanced FT-ICR MS, microfluidics, and Cultural Heritage analysis. He also coordinated the EU_FT-ICR_MS infrastructure.



Bayan Almasri, is a Syrian postdoctoral researcher at the University of Lille, working at the MSAP laboratory. She develops innovative protocols for the depolymerization and analysis of insoluble polymers. As the industrial and academic relations manager of the Youth Club of the French Society for Mass Spectrometry (CJSM), she has played key roles in organizing scientific events, conferences, and training sessions at national and European levels.

Workshop 4 Speakers

Henriette Stoeber is a Senior Policy Analyst in the European Universities Association's Higher Education Policy Unit (EUA). She is in charge of EUA's activities for students and researchers with an at-risk background. She also oversees all quantitative research projects of the Unit and works on policy issues in the EHEA and in Erasmus+. Prior to joining EUA, Henriette has worked at the Hungarian Rectors' Conference and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Michael Gaebel is the director of the Higher Education Policy Unit, which focuses on issues related to higher education learning and teaching, including the Bologna Process, lifelong learning, and internationalisation and global dialogue. Before joining EUA, Michael worked in higher education cooperation and development in the Middle East, the former Soviet Union and Asia. From 2002 to 2006, he was the European Co-Director of the ASEAN-EU University Network Programme (AUNP) in Bangkok.

Sarah Willcox oversees Scholars At Risk's internal operations and programming, including SAR's protection, advocacy, and university relations efforts. Prior to SAR, Sarah directed the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund serving 15 years from its year of inception to develop the program. For over twenty years she has advised in the establishment of scholar protection programs and has served on the steering committees of various advocacy organizations including the GCPEA and the UARRM.

Joanne Pagèze is Vice-President for Internationalization at the University of Bordeaux and is a lecturer at the Département Langues et Cultures. She has a research interest in international learning and teaching, language policy and higher education internationalization, publishing in the field of English for academic purposes, multilingual learning and internationalization. She is fully engaged in development of the European University Alliance, ENLIGHT. She is also actively engaged in European associations that support higher education internationalization, and is a member of the board of the EAIE.

















Workshop 5 Moderator

Dr. Maike Didero is a human geographer specialized in migration research and urban geography with a focus on Germany and the Middle East. She has been working as a programme director at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the Division Middle East and North Africa since 2016. Since 2023, she is also part of the Humboldt Foundation's Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom and has been contributing to the EU-funded project Inspireurope+ (Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe). In 2024, together with project consortium colleagues from PAUSE, the French programme for at-risk scholars, she co-authored an updated report on National Level Initiatives for Researchers at Riks in Europe.

Closing Session Speakers

Frank Albrecht leads the 'Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Freedom of Science' Division at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He has been involved with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative since its inception in 2015. Before that, he worked in strategic planning and the regional department for North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania at the Humboldt Foundation. Earlier in his career, he also held a position at a consulting firm in the United Kingdom

Pascale Laborier is Professor of Political Science at the University of Paris Nanterre/Institute for Social Sciences of Politics (ISP) and Associate Researcher at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin, Fellow at Migrations Convergences Institute. Her work focuses on forced academic migrations, academic freedom, and policies for rescuing endangered researchers. She recently co-edited the book "Academics in a Century of Displacement" (Springer, 2024) with Leyla Dakhli and Frank Wolff. Currently, she is involved in UXIL (Universités en exil) at Campus Condorcet.

Master of Ceremony

Firat Ilim is a scholar in carnival studies and musical aesthetics. He worked as an academic for over ten years in Turkish Kurdistan, and worked as a visiting scholar at the Free University of Berlin and at IVIC of Venezuela. He completed his PhD on Mikhail Bakhtin and also published books on Giordano Bruno and Sigmund Freud. He is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the LCSP laboratory of Université Paris Cité, as a PAUSE laureate.

PAUSE Team



Laura Lohéac Executive Director



Marianne Poche Integration and Career development Officer



Marion Gués Lucchini Advocacy and International Relations Officer



Hélène Jarry Focal point with host institutions



Laureen Grant Arts & Culture Officer



Isabelle Sokolowski Head of the reception projects division



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Naïma Davasse Intern in advocacy and communication













