

**PEER Network Symposium**  
**Supporting and Learning from Universities in Times of Conflict:**  
**Towards Resilience and Resistance in Higher Education**  
 University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies, Library Road, Falmer, BN1 9RE



**Day 1: Thursday 6 July 2023**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session (IDS Convening Space)</b>	<b>Session (IDS Room 120)</b>
<b>9.30-10.00</b>	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b>                      Mario Novelli, Co-Principal Investigator, PEER Network, University of Sussex                      Janet Boddy, Deputy Head of School, School of Education and Social Work, University of Sussex</p>	
<b>10.00-10.45</b>	<p><b>Keynote 1: Savo Heleta, Durban University of Technology:</b> ‘Neglect of higher education in conflict-affected settings: Realities, challenges and possibilities of transnational solidarity and support’ <b>Chair:</b> Mario Novelli, University of Sussex</p>	
<b>10.45-12.15</b>	<p><b>Panel 1: Resilience and resistance of universities during war</b></p> <p><b>Daria Malchykova and Ihor Pylpenko (Kherson State University):</b> ‘External occupation and internal liberty: Resilience and resistance of universities in times of war (Kherson State University experience)’  <b>Sansom Milton (Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies):</b> ‘Resilient Higher Education Systems during conflict: Emerging evidence from the Arab region’  <b>Arif Sahar (Sheffield Hallam University):</b> ‘Universities as spaces of resilience and resistance amid violence: The case of Afghanistan’  <b>Olha Homonchuk (ODI Global):</b> ‘Ukrainian Universities as Spaces of Resilience and Resistance’  <b>Chair: Tristan McCowan, UCL-Institute of Education</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 2: Academic isolation and transnational solidarities</b></p> <p><b>Murtaza Mohiqi (University of South-Eastern Norway):</b> ‘Overcoming Academic Isolation through Digital Global Universities in Conflict Zones - A Case Study of Empowering Afghan Girls' Education under Taliban's rule’  <b>Wesam Zarka (Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University) and Alhakam Shaar (The Aleppo Project):</b> ‘The Academic Teaching of English in Rebel-held North-western Syria: Difficulties and Successes’  <b>Juliet Millican (IDS), Tom Parkinson and Fateh Shaban (University of Kent):</b> ‘Academic isolation and transnational solidarities: CARA’s support to universities in Syria’  <b>Chair: Tahir Zaman, University of Sussex</b></p>
<b>12.15-1.15</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>	

**1.15-2.45 Panel 3: Academic repression and networks of solidarity**

**Encieh Erfani (International Community of Iranian Academics (ICOIA) / International Centre for Theoretical Physics):** ‘What is happening at the Universities of Iran during the “Women, Life, Freedom” Revolution?’

**Swati Kamble (Independent researcher), Laila Kadiwal (UCL-Institute of Education) and Sruti Bala (University of Amsterdam):** “‘Ideas behind bars”: Writings from imprisoned Indian students and academics’

**Daniel Hernández Rosete (Department of Educational Research, CINVESTAV):** Surviving State Terrorism in Mexico: Anthropological narratives of criminalized students

**Sonya Smylova (University of Cambridge):** ‘Higher education in exile: connecting imagination with praxis in the midst of political crisis’

**Chair: Birgul Kutan, University of Sussex**

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**2.45-3.30**

**Keynote 2: Samia Al-Botmeh, Birzeit University:** ‘Palestinian higher education under colonialism – between survival and resistance’

**Chair: Helen Murray, University of Sussex**

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**3.30-4.00**

**Break**

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**4.00-5.30**

**Roundtable: Policy directions on issues of higher education, conflict and post-conflict recovery**

**Maddalaine Ansell,** Head of Education, British Council

**Min Zhang,** UNESCO Qualifications Passport Initiative, Section for Migration, Displacement, Emergencies and Education, UNESCO

**Denise Roche,** Advocacy Manager, Scholars at Risk-Europe

**Kate Robertson,** Middle East Programme Adviser, CARA

**Panel 4: The politics of aid to higher education in conflict**

**Phyu Khaing Htut (FCDO, Myanmar):** ‘Education aid’s role in Myanmar Higher Education (HE) after Covid19 and military coup’

**Lee Rensimer and Tristan McCowan (UCL-Institute of Education):** ‘Seeing the forest for the trees: Comparing international aid to and through higher education in the Global South’

**Rachel Caterer, Monica Pereira and Pauldy Otermans (Brunel University):** A Qualitative Exploration of the Barriers Asylum-Seeking Students Face When Accessing Higher Education in the UK

**Jee Rubin and Zeina al-Azmeh (University of Cambridge):** ‘Foreign Aid, Higher Education and the ‘Right to Meaning’ in Syria’

**Chair: Juliet Millican, Institute of Development Studies**

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**5.30-7.00**

**Evening Reception – IDS Restaurant and Bar**

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## Day 2: Friday 7 July

Time	Session (IDS Convening Space)	Session (IDS Room 120)
9.30-10.15	<b>Keynote 3: Sardar Saadi, University of Rojava:</b> 'Reclaiming Knowledge, Rebuilding University: Higher Education against War and Repression in Autonomous Northeast Syria/Rojava' <b>Chair:</b> Birgul Kutan, University of Sussex	
10.15-11.45	<b>Panel 5: Defending academic freedom in times of conflict</b>  <b>Fatma Gök (Boğaziçi University):</b> 'Protecting academic freedom and university autonomy through a pedagogy of resistance' <b>Saimum Talukder (BRAC University):</b> 'Laws Declining Academic Freedom of Universities in Bangladesh: Can Judicial Review be Used as a Resilience Strategy?' <b>Sevgi Doğan (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa):</b> 'Between Revolt and Revolution: Academic freedom and Repression in Neoliberal Authoritarian Turkish University' <b>Joel Mark Baysa-Barredo (SHAPE-SEA, Thailand):</b> 'Defending Knowledge for and through Human Rights: Investigating Academic Activism in Philippines and Myanmar' <b>Chair: Susan Robertson, Emeritus Professor, University of Cambridge</b>	<b>Panel 6: Universities, conflict and rebuilding publics</b>  <b>Nimi Hoffmann (University of Sussex):</b> 'In defence of witchcraft: the academic project in the era of structural adjustment' <b>Monica Almanza (Universidad de los Andes), Larisa Kasumagic Kafedzic (University of Sarajevo) and Juliet Millican (IDS):</b> 'Peace pedagogies in higher education' <b>Helen Murray (University of Sussex):</b> 'Universities, conflict and rebuilding publics: post-civil war struggles for the future of the national university in Lebanon' <b>Kot David Adhal Naduar (University of Bologna):</b> 'Universities as a civic space in South Sudan? Towards peace and socio-economic empowerment through higher education' <b>Chair: Azeem Badroodien, University of Cape Town</b>
11.45-12.15	<b>Break</b>	
12.15-1.45	<b>Panel 7: Universities as spaces of resilience and resistance</b>  <b>Amy Kapit (Swarthmore College) and Selma Bratberg (Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund):</b> 'Activism Under Attack: Understanding the Repression of Student Activism'	<b>Panel 8: Universities, geopolitics and global crises</b>  <b>Sherzod Khaydarov (University of Edinburgh):</b> 'Political economy analysis of factors influencing the expansion of Russian International Branch Campuses in Uzbekistan' <b>Zhiyuan Sun and Yang Wang (Institute of International and Comparative Education, Zhejiang Normal University):</b> 'Flowing into Skill and

**Adnan El-Amine (American University of Beirut / Lebanese Association of Education Studies):** 'Arab Spring and Arab Universities'

**Laraib Niaz and Kusha Anand (University of Cambridge and UCL-Institute of Education):** 'Reclaiming or Resisting Academic Freedom: Universities as Spaces for Dissent in India and Pakistan'

**Isha Dilraj and Azeem Badroodien (University of Cape Town):** 'The Paradox of Erasure: Transformation and Unequal Economic Relations at a South African University'

**Chair: Fatma Gök, Boğaziçi University**

Employment? Comparative Policy Analysis of ODA to TVET in time of Uncertainty'

**Tristan McCowan (UCL-Institute of Education):** 'Universities in the climate crisis: fragmentation or creative multiplicity?'

**Chair: Nimi Hoffmann, University of Sussex**

