

Funding Opportunities for Researchers at Risk

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Scholars at Risk Summit - Freedom to Think
Carleton University
21 November 2023

Dr. Maike Didero

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

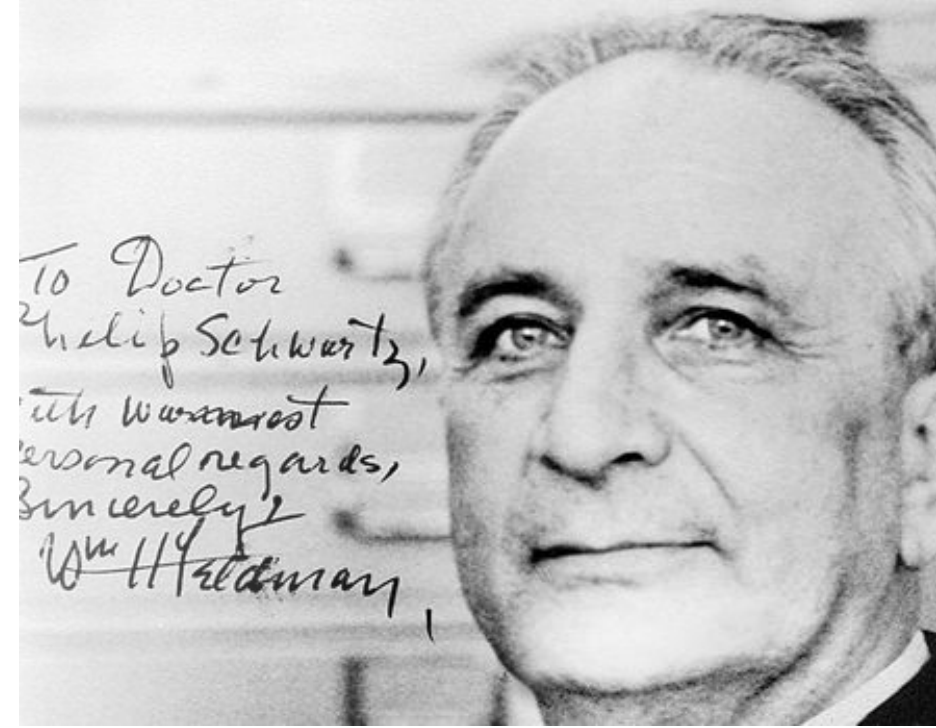
- Research fellowships and research awards for researchers from abroad
- Chosen research project with a host and collaborative partner in Germany
- From PostDoc Fellowship to the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship: Germany's most valuable research award



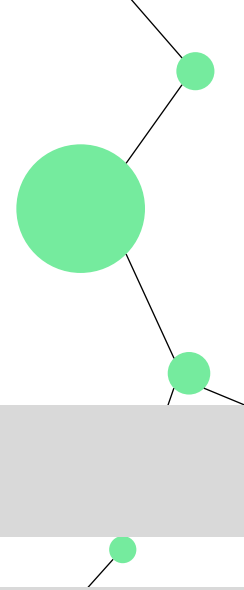
The “Philipp Schwartz Initiative” for researchers at risk

Philipp Schwartz

- Professor of Pathology at the University of Frankfurt
- dismissed in 1933 under the “Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service” (Berufsbeamtengesetz) and fled Germany to escape arrest
- founded the “Notgemeinschaft deutscher Wissenschaftler im Ausland”



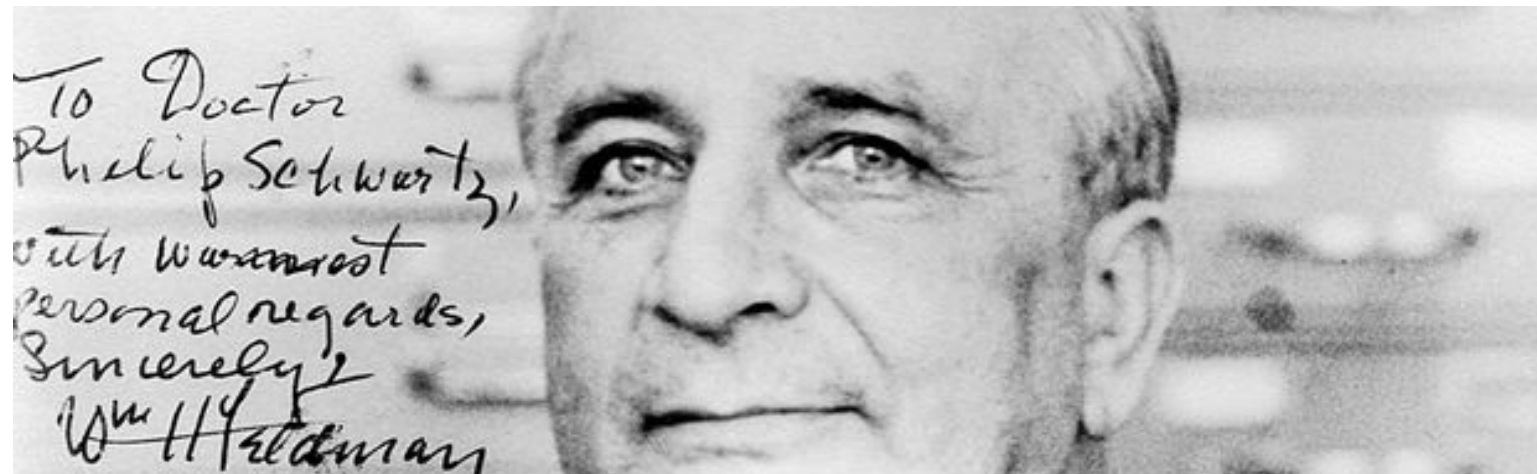
Philipp Schwartz Initiative - Three Components



1. Individual Support to Researchers

2. Capacity-Building

3. Networks



Partners

Inspireurope

Supporting Researchers at Risk

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

cara

a lifeline to academics at risk

PAUSE

PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'ACCUEIL EN
URGENCE DES SCIENTIFIQUES EN EXIL

For Students at Risk:

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

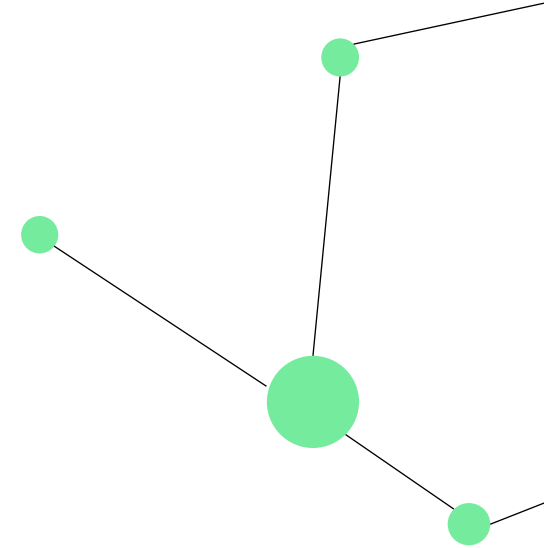
SCHOLARS AT RISK

GERMANY SECTION

- 58 members (May 2023)
- 5 Regional Networks
- Founded and currently coordinated by AvH



The Philipp Schwartz Initiative - Facts & Figures I



- Established in 2016 for **Researchers at Severe and Acute Individual Risk**
- PostDocs to Senior Professors: fully-funded **24-month fellowships**
- Steady State pre-2022: **50 fellowships per year** in 2 annual calls for nominations
- Auxiliary funds for the host institution: **20,000 EUR** per fellow hosted
 - to provide *individual trainings*, etc. for PSI fellows
 - to help establish *long-term support structures* at host institutions



Facts & Figures – as of November 2023



>480

Philipp Schwartz Fellows

>125

Host Institutions

59% male

41% female

0.2% non-binary

26

Countries of Origin:
Turkey, Ukraine, Syria,
Afghanistan, Iran, ...

27

Preparatory Fellowships under
PSI Emergency Fund Ukraine

20

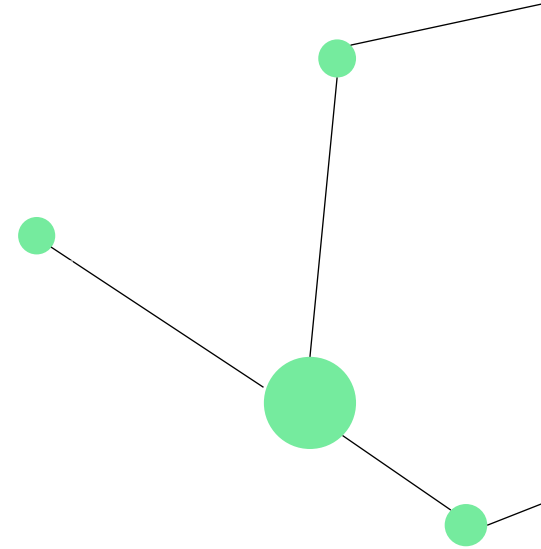
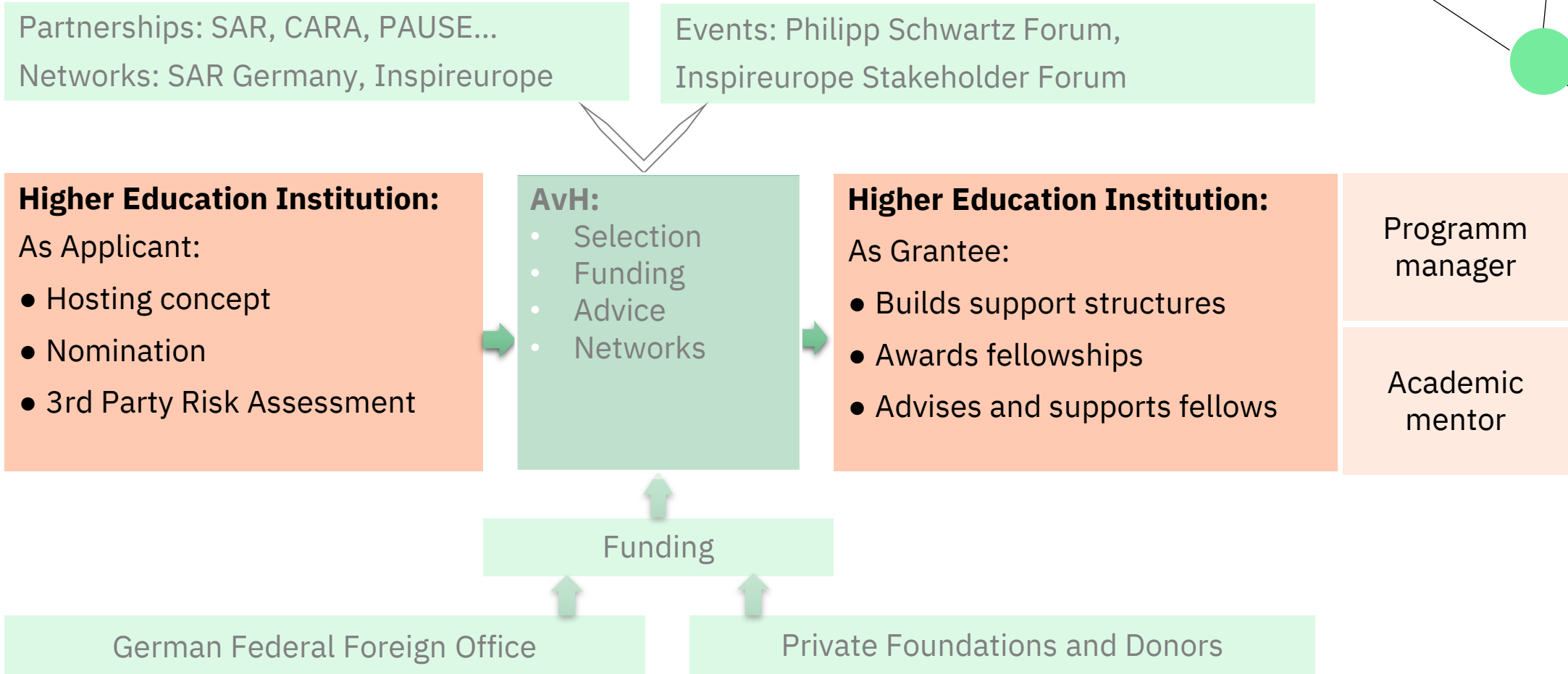
Bridging Fellowships under
Special Programme Afghanistan

12

Fellowships under
Special Programme Iran



Higher education institutions as applicants and beneficiaries



Challenges I: Selection Criteria

- How to allocate limited resources appropriately?
- Academic qualifications v. degree of risk?
- Research-related support scheme v. humanitarian support?



Selection Criteria

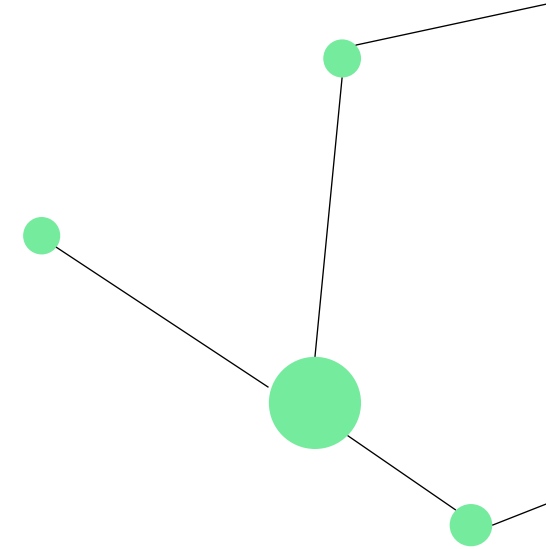
Does the combination of

- the **support concept** of the host institution
- **the fit** between the nominee - and their research project - and the academic mentor
- the **academic qualification** of the nominee
- the **commitment** of the host institution to the nominee
- **concrete support measures** on the part of the host institution and the mentor
- **perspectives** for the time after the end of the funding

appear likely to prepare the nominee for a successful new start in an academic or academia-related career in the country of origin, in Germany or a third country?



Challenges II: Preparing for Transitions



- Return as the primary objective
- If return is impossible: Move from protection to regular positions
 - Assessment criteria/metrics of academic output
 - Access to competitive academic labour markets
 - Alternative career options beyond academia



Challenges II: Crisis Response v. Individual Support

- Since 2021 overlapping crises: Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iran...
- 2022 und 2023: sharp increase in nomination numbers
- **Special Initiatives** to respond to individual crises:
 - 2022: PSI Bridge Fellowships Afghanistan
 - 2022: PSI Emergency Fund Ukraine (funded by Springer Nature and Carl Zeiss Foundation)
 - 2022: MSCA4Ukraine (Consortium, funded by the European Union)
 - 2023: PSI Special Programme Iran
- Aim: Reliable, long-term support structures and programmes beyond crisis response
- Provide support structures for individual researchers and academic freedom globally



Thank you!

Contact:

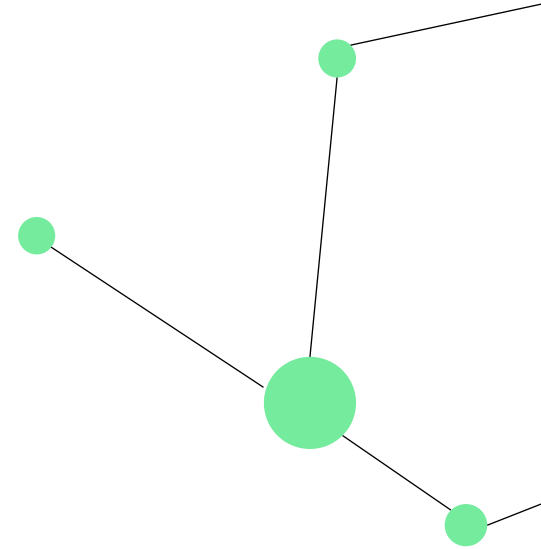
Dr. Maike Didero

Division „Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom“

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

schwartz-initiative@avh.de

msca4ukraine@avh.de



Resources

Philipp Schwartz Initiative:

- <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/philipp-schwartz-initiative>

MSCA4Ukraine:

- <https://sareurope.eu/msca4ukraine/>

Funding opportunities and other resources for researchers at risk (incl. links to PAUSE, SRF etc.):

- <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/philipp-schwartz-initiative/sponsorship-opportunities-for-researchers-at-risk>
- <https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/inspireurope-resources/>

For students at risk:

- <https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/hilde-domin-programm/>

