



Academics at Risk e.V.

Knowledge in Exile

From Loss to Responsibility

(ExWis2025)

Digital Impulse Series and Online Discussions
on Global Knowledge Justice

December, 2025

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Public Panel Discussions

Panel 1 - Knowledge Interrupted: How Forced Migration Disrupts Science

Date: 12 December 2025

Speakers:

Dr. Clarisse Halpern (Florida Gulf Coast University, USA)

Dr. Fateh Shaban (University of Kent, UK)

Moderator:

Dr. Abdulmelik Alkan (Webster University Georgia)

This panel explored how violations of academic freedom function as a push factor in academic exile and how displacement leads to silence, brain waste, and long-term knowledge loss. Drawing on empirical research and lived experience, speakers highlighted cases from Turkey and Syria, addressing dismissal, repression, institutional collapse, and the everyday barriers faced by scholars in exile.

Panel 2 - From Loss to Responsibility: Rethinking Global Knowledge Justice

Date: 19 December 2025

Speakers:

Dr. Tom Parkinson (UK)

Dr. Ibrahim Kurt (Netherlands)

Moderator:

Dr. Abdulmelik Alkan (Webster University, Georgia)

The second panel shifted focus from diagnosis to responsibility, examining global knowledge inequalities and the conditions under which lose–lose dynamics (brain drain and brain waste) can be transformed into more sustainable models. Discussions addressed the roles of host institutions, transnational cooperation, ethical integration, and policy frameworks.

Participation

Across both panels and impulse series on social media:

- More than 150 participants attended live sessions,
- Social media content got more than 50.00 impressions,
- Participants included academics, early-career researchers, students, NGO representatives, and individuals working on forced migration and higher education
- Both panels were followed by active discussion and engagement, indicating strong interest beyond passive attendance.



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Core Themes Addressed

Across the social media campaign and panel discussions, ExWis2025 consistently addressed the following themes:

- Academic freedom as a foundational condition for knowledge production
- Forced migration as structural interruption, not voluntary mobility
- Knowledge loss beyond individuals: impacts on institutions, disciplines, and societies
- Brain drain and brain waste as global lose–lose dynamics
- The absence of comprehensive data on displaced academics as a structural problem
- Shared responsibility across academic, institutional, civil society, and policy levels

The project deliberately avoided simplifying narratives or solutionism, instead emphasizing complexity, continuity, and structural responsibility.

Purpose and Continuity of Results

The purpose of ExWis2025 was to create awareness, reflection, and shared understanding, rather than to produce immediate policy solutions. By combining sustained digital engagement with live discussion formats, the project succeeded in:

- Making academic exile visible as a knowledge justice issue,
- Connecting empirical research with lived experience,
- Fostering dialogue across disciplines and sectors, and
- Strengthening awareness within academic and civil society communities.

The project's results continue beyond December 2025 through:

- Publicly accessible online content, including an article, more than 25 social media posts, and a final project report,
- Strengthened networks among participants and speakers, and
- Integration of ExWis2025 insights into the ongoing work of Academics at Risk e.V.

ExWis2025 demonstrated that knowledge loss is not an abstract risk, but a concrete outcome of disrupted academic freedom—and that responsibility for protecting knowledge is shared.

Funding Acknowledgement

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