Winter School
KNOWLEDGES AT RISK
Padova, 18-22 February 2019

Organized by the

University of Padova, Next Generations Global Studies (NGGS)
University of Trento, Department of Sociology and Social Research
Scholars at Risk International Network

Call

The Winter School ‘Knowledges at Risk’ addresses the many issues emerging from global dynamics that are putting at risk - or promise to transform profoundly and in unexpected directions - the very existence of academic knowledge, the roles and activities of higher education institutions, the lives and experiences of scholars and students.

Universities around the world are experiencing profound transformations brought about by a plurality of contradictory processes. Globalization, marketization and business-oriented management have an impact on how the educational mandate of university institutions is understood and translated into research and educational programs, often contributing to the marginalization of important disciplines, particularly the humanities and the social sciences. The widespread adoption of digital technology in educational activities offers new and productive opportunities for knowledge exchange. Still, it also profoundly transforms the very processes of knowledge pursuit, production, dissemination, ownership and utilization. The outcome of these developments – in terms of access to knowledge and of its relevance to public interest and democracy – is largely uncertain. A strong push towards loosely defined ‘internationalization’ is leading to an increase of international agreements between higher education institutions. At the same time, a backlash against globalization - and a rise in nationalist populism across the globe along with growing anti-immigrant sentiment – are making it more difficult for scientists to conduct collaborative, international research and to share ideas, innovations and data – both with each other and with the public. In this context, the recent growth of authoritarianism and the rise of overt conflicts across the world have affected growing numbers of scholars in many regions. They are exposed to violent aggression, imprisonment, prosecution, job loss, expulsion and travel restrictions. These developments spurred a widespread response by academic institutions, with the design and implementation of collaborative plans for the support and protection of at-risk scholars, as demonstrated by the activities of Scholars at Risk (SAR). In all the above-mentioned cases, the nexus between knowledge and governance - particularly higher institution governance and risk-related politics - requires adequate attention for its possible consequences, as well as in depth reflection on future developments.

The WS includes lectures by scholars and representatives from civil society and international organizations, training seminars on advocacy and group work on the interrelated issues of academic
freedom, human rights, ownership and dissemination of knowledge, reception and integration policies for at-risk scholars and students.

During the Winter School, the Italian National Section of Scholars at Risks is officially launched.

Organising Committee for UNITrento
Dr.ssa Ester Gallo
Prof.ssa Barbara Poggio
Prof. Marco Brunazzo

Eligible students
Students enrolled at the University of Trento attending a Bachelor’s Degree (II Level – Laurea Magistrale) or a Doctoral Programme. Strong applications from students enrolled in the Bachelor’s Degree (I Level – Laurea Triennale) will also be considered.

Students are expected to have a very good working knowledge of English. The organising committee may consider to enquire with the Administration about language proficiency and certificates. Students may wish to indicate taken exams that are waiting for formal registrations: they should indicate the date in which the exam was taken, and the reason why it is not yet registered.

Number of available places
4 places for students of the University of Trento

Deadline for application: Friday 11th January 2019
Selected students will be notified by Thursday 17th of January. The organising committee might invite shortlisted candidates for an interview, tentatively on Tuesday the 15th of January.

Applications and enquiries should be addressed via email to:
Dott.ssa Ester Gallo, Department of Sociology and Social Research
Ester.Gallo@unitn.it and segreteria.srs@unitn.it

Costs and Funding
In the spirit of academic freedom, the Winter School is free of charge. Students should however provide for their travel and accommodation. The University of Padova will make available some rooms within their structures.

Students from the Department of Sociology and Social research can apply for funding at the following link:
https://www.sociologia.unitn.it/finanziamento-studenti

Application procedure:
Students applying for the Winter School are required to send the following documents:
- a CV (European format) and the permit of stay or passport (for non-UE citizens only);
- a one-page motivation letter (English and Italian) explaining how the topics of the Winter School are related to his/her study plan or interests;

Certificate and CFU
The University of Trento and Padova will provide participant students with a certificate. The Department of Sociology and Social Research will recognize 4CFU to DSRS’s students, provided that they will submit a final essay about a topic pertinent with the aims/topics of the Winter School.

The deadline for the submission is 1st April 2019, via email to: ester.gallo@unitn.it. To this end, reading materials will be made available in the due course.