

**Call for applications to present in the Science in Exile panel
at the SRI2021 online conference
13 June 2021**

Submission via <https://forms.office.com/r/E2wwjPgsvV>

Deadline: Friday 21 May 2021 (18.00 CEST)

Science in Exile is calling for early and mid-career refugee, displaced and at-risk scientists working in the area of socio-environmental sustainability and resilience to send in a proposal to present during a panel at the Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021 ([SRI2021](#)) conference (12-15 June 2021).

Key Dates

Issue call for proposals:	5 May 2021
Submission deadline for proposal:	21 May 2021
Selection decision of proposals:	31 May 2021
Online preparatory meeting with all panelists:	3 June 2021
Submission deadline for presentations:	9 June 2021
Science in Exile Panel presentation:	13 June 2021, 11:00 -12:00 CEST

SRI2021 CONFERENCE: Resilience Proposal Theme

Scientists in Exile Forum: *A meta-view of the impact of ongoing uncertainty and risks for scientists and the production of science.*

Humanitarian emergencies and disasters displace millions of people. Among them are scientists, doctors, engineers, and others with advanced academic and technical training. Forced displacement has devastating consequences on the scientific endeavour – knowledge and people get lost.

There is little recognition of refugee and displaced scientists, neither of their potential nor of their needs. Failing to preserve the work of these scientists (and aspiring scientists) causes a tragic loss of knowledge on a global scale and has devastating consequences as countries lose their experts and educators. Enabling scientists to maintain meaningful careers and creating new collaborations will not only preserve their research, but allow communities to benefit from their valuable knowledge, including the possibility to rebuild their countries in the future.

Programmes to support displaced scientists are few and fragmented. Until now, there has not been a unified global effort to identify and advocate for the affected scientists, where they can come together for peer support, voice their concerns, or search for opportunities — and research on these issues is limited. A new initiative,

launched in March 2021, aims to create such a global platform and a network that supports the needs of refugee and displaced scientists and advocates for a coordinated global response.

Organized by the International Science Council (ISC), working with The World Academy of Sciences ([UNESCO-TWAS](#)) and the InterAcademy Partnership ([IAP](#)) under the umbrella of [Science International](#), this session will bring together a group of early and mid-career refugee, displaced and at-risk scientists working in the area of socio-environmental sustainability and resilience. Using a humanist approach to the preservation of science, the session will draw on exiled scientists' own narratives to explore the impact of displacement; the challenges and the building back; the benefits of support and integration, and how the science community can respond.

About SRI2021

The Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021 ([SRI2021](#)) is the world's first transdisciplinary gathering in sustainability – it will be a space of fierce advocacy for sustainability scholarship, innovation, collaboration and action. The first in an annual series that unites global leaders, experts, industry and innovators to inspire action and promote a transformation in sustainability.

Format for the 60-minute online session via the Zoom platform

Panelists:

- Chairpersons Vivi Stavrou (Senior Science Officer and Executive Secretary of the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, ISC) and Asli Vatansever (Bard College Berlin)
 - Three early and mid-career refugee, displaced and at-risk scientists working in the area of socio-environmental sustainability and resilience.
- 1) 10 min introduction: 1st chair will introduce the session and the speakers; the 2nd chair will introduce the topic.
 - 2) 25 minutes panel: The 2nd chair will facilitate the presentations and discussion.
 - 3) The three panel members will have 5-7 minutes each to explore the themes outlined below. A preparation meeting will be held on 3 June to plan the session and the presentations.
 - Before displacement - their experience carrying out research in their home country. The struggles they might have faced due to the limitations of disproportionate global funding, resources and insecurity.
 - Displacement experiences - anecdotes of their journey, from the cause of displacement to the hurdles and challenges they had to overcome.
 - Science in exile - experiences as a researcher/scientist in their first/newest host country. The systemic inequalities they faced as a scientist, including discrimination, gaps in recognition, knowledge and opportunities to contribute. If relevant, the impact of academic and scientific labour precarity. Along with the hardships of navigating the

bureaucratic/political processes and the psychosocial impacts that come along with refugee/displaced status.

- Preserving science and connections with scientists/colleagues in their home country - preserving universities, laboratories, research units, libraries and museum collections, under threat from war, climate change impact, etc.
 - Recommendations - both at global and national levels. What is needed to meet their needs and address the challenges they have faced, to sustain and support the scientific community in their home country and region?
 - The socio-emotional impact will be explored as the scientists tell their stories and the systemic inequalities that come along with being a refugee / displaced person / member of an unrepresented group from the scientific community. In turn, this session will try to derail the stereotypical notion of a refugee/displaced person, advocate for increased diversity and inclusion to advance sustainability throughout generations and bring awareness to the issue of scientists in exile along with a call to action.
- 4) 20 minutes moderated discussion among the presenters, the chairs and the audience.
 - 5) 5 minutes wrap up message by the chairpersons.

Questions that could be explored by the chairs:

- What are the challenges for preserving and building capacity for sustainability research in countries and regions impacted upon by war and other humanitarian emergencies and disasters?
- What do displaced and refugee scientists need to maintain meaningful careers and create new collaborations?
- How do we approach support to refugee and displaced scientists in a context of increased precarity in science systems?
- How can the science and policy communities prepare — nationally, regionally and internationally — to mitigate the struggles these scientists experience, and ensure that they're able to continue to pursue their research and build their expertise?

Applications

Please only apply if you can fulfil the following deadlines and make yourself available for a group meeting to prepare for the panel.

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As soon as applicants are aware that they have been selected, they are encouraged to start the development of their presentations.

A meeting with all the panelists has been arranged for 09.00 CEST on Thursday 3 June 2021, to get to know each other, discuss the overall format and objectives of the panel, the content and flow of the different presentations.

The written narratives of the presentations and any PowerPoint slides need to be submitted by Wednesday 9 May 2021.

The time and date of the Science in Exile panel is 11.30am-12.00 CEST, Sunday, 13 June 2021.

Eligibility criteria:

- This call is open only to early and mid-career refugee, displaced and at-risk scientists who have had to leave their home country.
- Applicants should hold a PhD or equivalent research experience and have no more than 20 years after PhD. If an applicant does not have a PhD, evidence proving research experience should be provided.
- We encourage natural and social scientists to apply. It would be in your favour if your field of research is on socio-environmental sustainability and resilience. Sustainability science is, "...an emerging field of research dealing with the interactions between natural and social systems, and with how those interactions affect the challenge of sustainability: meeting the needs of present and future generations while substantially reducing poverty and conserving the planet's life support systems."
- You will not be disqualified if you do not identify yourself specifically as a sustainability scientist. This is a broad topic taking in a wide array of inter- and transdisciplinary research examining the challenges of global environmental change and its impact on human and natural ecosystems.
- Applications must be written in English and the conference will be conducted in English.
- Applications which exceed the word limits (see below) will not be considered.

Submission of application forms may only be made using the online form at <https://forms.office.com/r/E2wwjPgszV>

After filling the form, applicants must send their CV (max 2 pages) to displacedscientists@twas.org (subject line "Call for applications SRI 2021"). Applications with no CV will be deemed ineligible.

Assessment Process:

All applications will undergo a two-stage assessment process:

- 1) Eligibility check of all applications by the Science in Exile management team and exclusion of applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria.
- 2) Review and final selection of eligible applications by the Science in Exile management team, involving ISC, IAP and TWAS, coordinated from the TWAS Secretariat.

Assessment Criteria:

- Relevance to the call.
- The applicant's motivation as to how their presentation has the potential of advancing understanding of the subject concerned and advocating for increased attention and constructive support for displaced and at-risk scientists to continue their scientific work.
- The applicant's demonstration as to how being a working scientist in dangerous, insecure and uncertain situations has impacted upon their research content and practice, how such disruptions have impacted upon their research partners, their career, their institution and on addressing national and regional-level sustainable development challenges and poverty reduction.

Contact:

Before making a direct inquiry, please read the call for applications carefully.

For inquiries concerning the content of the call, please contact:

displacedscientists@twas.org.