

# PANELISTS

## Amanda Mendoza

Doctor in Social Policy, Master in education and specialist in gender and sexuality. Graduated in Social Sciences and also Pedagogy. Has a post-doctorate in education and works in the area of Sociology of education, mainly on the following themes: gender, secularism, public policies and human rights. Is part of the Observatory of Secularism on Education - OSE and an associate researcher of the Research and Studies Group on Gender, Sexualities and Differences in the Several SpacesTimes of History and Daily Life (GESDI).

## Amna Khalid

Associate Professor in the Department of History at Carleton College, where she specializes in South Asian history. Growing up under a series of military dictatorships, Khalid has a strong interest in censorship and free expression. In 2020/21, she served as the inaugural John Stuart Mill Faculty Fellow at Heterodox Academy. A founding member of the Academic Freedom Alliance, she currently hosts a podcast called "Banished," which explores threats to free expression in higher education and beyond.

## Camila Nobrega Rabello A.

Journalist and academic researcher. She is an Alumni fellow from Scholars at Risk network and develops a multimedia project about women scholars working on environmental conflicts in Brazil. She is a Ph.D Candidate on Political Science at the Free University of Berlin. Camila has published in many media outlets as a journalist and researcher, such as *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *The Guardian*, *Mongabay*, among others. She was a guest researcher in many universities, such as Alice Salomon Hochschule, Free University of Berlin, Cambridge University, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Federal University of Pará.



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## Danielle Anne Pamplona

Professor at the Graduate and Undergraduate Law Programs of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná - PUCPR; Coordinator of the Human Rights Clinic at PUCPR; Vice-Director of the Latin American Academy of Human Rights and Business. She was a PostDoctoral Fellow at the Washington College of Law (American University, Washington, DC). She completed her PhD at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina and her Master at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. In the last few years, she has worked as a consultant on Business and Human Rights related issues.

## David Gomez Gamboa

Lawyer, journalist and PhD in political science. Director of the NGO Aula Abierta, founded in 2014 and dedicated to the promotion and defense of academic freedom and the rights of university students. He is a professor at the University of Zulia in Venezuela in the areas of human rights and public international law. He is also coordinator of the Human Rights Commission of the Faculty of Juridical and Political Sciences of the aforementioned university. He is a national and international lecturer and researcher in the area of human rights.

## Eve Darian-Smith

Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Studies & International Studies at the University of California, Irvine (USA). She is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in law, history and anthropology and interested in issues of postcolonialism, human rights, legal pluralism, knowledge production, authoritarianism and democracy. She is an award-winning author and teacher and has published thirteen books and edited volumes. Her coauthored book, *The Global Turn: Theories, Research Designs, and Methods for Global Studies* (2017), is widely considered a foundational text in the emerging field of global studies. Her latest book is *Global Burning: Rising Antidemocracy and the Climate Crisis* (Stanford UP, 2022).

## Jeff Snyder

Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Studies at Carleton College, where his research and teaching focus on past and present educational policy and school reform movements. He is the author of the 2018 book, *Making Black History: The Color Line, Culture and Race in the Age of Jim Crow*. Snyder has a keen interest in issues of academic freedom and free expression, especially as they relate to liberal arts education.

## Lavinia Francesconi

PhD student on international law and international human rights law at Aix-Marseille University. Her thesis deals with human rights law and



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institutions within the Organization of American States. At the moment, she is visiting as a researcher the Max Planck Institute of Public and International Law (Heidelberg, Germany), sponsored by the DAAD scholarship program. Francesconi also holds a LL.M. in public international law from Leiden University, and a Law degree cum laude from the University of Bologna.

## Liliana Ronconi

Researcher of the National Council of Scientific Research (CONICET- Argentina) with work place at the L.A. Gioja Institute, School of Law, University of Buenos Aires. Doctor in Law (Sch-

ool of Law, University of Buenos Aires, Specialist in School Practices (FLACSO-Argentina), Lawyer and Professor in Legal Sciences (School of Law- UBA). She is currently Interim Adjunct Professor of Human Rights and Guarantees, School of Law, UBA. She is also a postgraduate professor in Equality, Education, Social Rights, Law Teaching, among other subjects. She is also a consultant on education and sex education in the region.

## Estela Rivero Fuentes

Senior research associate and co-director of the Central America Research Alliance (CARA) with the Pulte Institute for Global Development at the University of Notre Dame. A social demographer by training, Dr. Rivero has over 20 years of experience evaluating social programs; analyzing and collecting data; and conducting policy-oriented research on gender, migration, youth, and violence issues in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. In CARA, she puts that expertise to use by supporting the implementation and uptake of research on human rights, democracy and rule of law, equitable development, human mobility, and citizen security. Dr. Rivero holds a Ph.D. in demography and public affairs from Princeton University, and a master's in demography from El Colegio de Mexico.

## Mayda Hočevár

Lawyer from the University of Los Andes, Venezuela and Doctor in Law from the University of Salamanca, Spain. Professor of Philosophy of Law at the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences and founding Director of the Human Rights Observatory of the Universidad de Los Andes organization that together with other university human rights organizations has done national and international advocacy on academic freedom in Venezuela. Among her publications are *Threats to Academic Freedom in Venezuela: Legislative Impositions and Patterns of Discrimination Towards University Teachers and Students*. Interdisciplinary Political Studies, vol 3 N. 1 (2017).



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## Pâmella Passos

Human rights defender, history professor at the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Rio de Janeiro (IFRJ), PhD in History with two post-doctoral internships, the first in Social Anthropology investigating the cultural impacts of the UPPs and the second in Education analyzing the impacts of conservatism in history teaching. She is leader of the Research Group on Technology, Education & Culture. She coordinated the research *Educators are advocates: a feasibility study for the creation of a foster care program in Brazil* and currently serves on the advisory board of the Marielle Franco Institute.

## Rosario Figari Layús

Post-doctoral researcher at the Chair of Peace Studies at the Justus Liebig University of Gießen in Germany. Since January 2022, Figari Layús is a research fellow of the joint research program conducted and funded by the Mellon Foundation and the organization Scholars at Risk on Academic Freedom. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Phillips University of Marburg in Germany. Previously she earned a master's degree in social sciences from Humboldt University of Berlin and a degree in sociology from the University of Buenos Aires. Figari Layús is also one of the co-founders of the independent network Academicxs en Riesgo. Her areas of work and research focus on human rights protection, academic freedom, political and gender-based violence, transitional justice and peace and conflict studies.

## Juan Fernando Potes González

He holds a law degree from the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey and a Master's degree in International Law and Comparative Law from Tulane Law School, as well as a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from Tulane University. He is currently a professor at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the University of Monterrey where he has taught courses and published articles on Ethics and Law, Human Rights, Mediation, Comparative Law and International Business Law, among other topics.

## Magdalena Bas Vilizzio

Professor-researcher at the University of Monterrey (Mexico), Associate Professor at the University of the Republic (Uruguay) on leave of absence, PhD in IR from the National University of La Plata (Argentina).

## Adriana Melissa Ávila

B.A. in International Studies from the UDEM. M.A. in Latin American Studies with an emphasis in Urban Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. PhD Candidate in Urban Studies from the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. Full-time professor at DECS where she



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teaches courses related to Latin America, International Relations and Geography. She focuses her academic interests on cities, gender, democracy, Latin America and the international system.

## Catalina Arango Patiño

Coordinator of the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas. She works as a researcher on communication, human rights and digital literacy issues in the United States, Canada and Colombia. She holds a Master's degree in Communication from the University of Ottawa.

## Emilio Álvarez Icaza L.

He holds a degree in Sociology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), a master's degree in Social Sciences from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), and a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from UNAM. He was Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) from August 2012 to August 2016. From 2001 to 2009 he was President of the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District (CDHDF). He has participated in multiple civil society initiatives, including as Director General of the Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social, A.C. (Cencos); co-founder of Alianza Cívica, A.C., an organisation involved in the transition to democracy in Mexico; board member of more than ten Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) linked to human rights, security and democracy issues; and co-founder and member of the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (Movimiento por la Paz con Justicia y Dignidad). He is currently an independent Senator of the Republic for Mexico City and Coordinator of the Plural Parliamentary Group. He is also a member of the National Promotion Council of the citizens' and collective initiative AHORA.

## Joel Barredo

Executive Director of Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research/Education in Asean/Southeast Asia (shape-sea). The organisation works to promote human rights and peace, as well as the protection of academic freedom in the region.

## Elthon Rivera Cruz

Activist and human rights defender for students and academic communities in Nicaragua. President of "Iniciativa Puentes por los Estudiantes de Nicaragua" which defends students persecuted by the Nicaraguan regime.

## Viviana Fernandez

Assistant Director at the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa (uOttawa). She has been a member of the



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SAR Canada Steering Committee since 2016. In 2021, Viviana was elected to the Executive Committee of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) for a three-years term. In addition, she has been on the board of the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (uOttawa) since 2014 and in the Committee for the Joint Chair in Women's Studies, Carleton University and uOttawa since 2019. Viviana lead the organization of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign for Canada as a board member of Women in International Security Canada from 2015 until 2018.

## Arturo Azuara

Dean of the School of Law and Social Sciences of the University of Monterrey, former Director of the same School; former Legal Director of Grupo Garza Ponce, Housing Division; former Director of Negotiations of the Northeast Regional Integration and Texas Liaison Program (INVI) for the Government of the State of Nuevo León; former Director of the Department of Legal Counsel and Labour Relations of the Technological System of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM). He holds a PhD in Philosophy and Comparative Law from Tulane University; a Master of Law, International Law and International Legal Studies from Tulane University; and a Master of Business Administration, Concentration in International Business from Tecnológico de Monterrey.

## Robert Quinn

Founding Executive Director of Scholars at Risk Network, an independent non-profit organization based at New York University, and host of the Free to Think podcast. He graduated cum laude from Princeton in 1988, received his J.D. cum laude from Fordham in 1994, and received a Ph.D. from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2010. In 2012, Mr. Quinn and Scholars at Risk received the University of Oslo's human rights award, the Lisl and Leo Eitingger Prize, for their "work to protect the human rights of academics and to have inspired and engaged others to underscore the importance of academic freedom."

## Jesse Levine

Senior Advocacy Officer at Scholars at Risk. He manages the work of SAR's academic freedom advocacy team initiative, including the development of research and advocacy projects focused on discrete academic freedom concerns. He is an experienced litigator in the United States and has extensive human rights experience. He holds law degrees from Fordham University School of Law and the University of Michigan.



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## Salvador Herencia-Carrasco

PhD candidate, director of the Human Rights Clinic of the Centre for Human Rights Research and Education and part-time lecturer in the Civil Law Section of the University of Ottawa. Previously, he has worked as legal advisor to the Andean Commission of Jurists, senior jurisdictional advisor to the Constitutional Tribunal of Peru and senior human rights legal advisor to the Department of Justice and Human Rights of Peru. He is a member of the Latin American Study Group on International Criminal Law.

## Clare Robinson

Director of Advocacy for Scholars at Risk, where she leads SAR's efforts to identify, report and respond to attacks on higher education communities worldwide. She develops and manages SAR's student advocacy seminars, faculty-led student teams that conduct advocacy activities on behalf of incarcerated academics and students, and is responsible for advocacy working groups on the protection of student expression and unfair trials. He holds an MA in Politics/International Relations from New York University.

## Rafael Ibarra

Professor at the University of Monterrey (since 2013). External consultant at Leal Isla & Horváth, S.C. on trusts, estate planning, obligations and assets. Speaker in international forums and author in international publishing houses on trust, property law and other private law topics. Doctor of Law from the University of Panthéon-Assas, Paris II (Summa Cum Laude).

## Jo-Marie Burt

Professor at George Mason University and Vice-President of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), where she chairs the Academic Freedom and Human Rights Committee.

## Ximena Medellín

Law graduate from the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Master in International Law from the University of Notre Dame in the United States and PhD in Law from the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Professor at CIDE Mexico.

## Phoebe Alpern

Membership and University Relations Program Assistant, Scholars at Risk. Works on engagement and outreach with the membership network and with the Vivian G. Prins Scholars at Risk speaker series. BA in History from Pomona College.



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## Celine Gonzalez

M.A. in Public Administration and Policy from the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) and currently studying for her PhD in Political and Social Sciences at UNAM. She is Director of Academic Evaluation and Associate Professor at CIDE. She has participated in various academic projects related to the gender perspective, such as a Project on Classroom Observation with a Gender Perspective in Upper Secondary Education within the Interdisciplinary Programme on Gender Policies in Higher Education (Programa Interdisciplinario de Políticas de Educación Supe-

public policies with a gender perspective for INMUJERES, the Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary and INE. She also participated in two research projects related to gender-based political violence at the local level in conjunction with UN Women Mexico.

## Jorge A. Sánchez Cordero

Representative of the Mexican Centre for Uniform Law and member of the Board of Directors of Scholars at Risk.

## Pedro Vaca Villarreal

Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) since 6 October 2020. He is a Colombian lawyer from the National University of Colombia. He has a Master's degree in Law and a specialisation in Constitutional Law, with more than 12 years of professional experience in the field of human rights. He has litigated on behalf of victims of serious violations of freedom of expression. From 2013 to 2020, he served as executive director of the Foundation for Press Freedom (FLIP) in Colombia.

## Cesare P.R. Romano

He holds degrees in three different disciplines (political science, international relations and law) from three countries (Italy, Switzerland and the United States). His speciality is public international law, in particular international human rights and international courts and tribunals.

He founded the International Human Rights Center at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Since then, he has led his students in litigating dozens of cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and specialised UN human rights bodies (e.g., the Human Rights Committee; the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; the Committee on the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). In 2018, he helped establish and joined the Steering Committee of Science for Democracy, a Brussels-based NGO that aims to promote the human right to science (i.e. the right to benefit



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from progress in science and technology) and the rights of science (i.e. the right of scientists to conduct our research without undue interference).

## Thomas Buntru

Dean of International Programmes at the University of Monterrey (UDEM), where he has worked since 1988. Prior to assuming his current position in 2004, he served as Student Exchange Coordinator from 1997 to 2003.