

We're pleased to present Off-University's 2021-2022 Annual Report, highlighting our impact, achievements and further objectives

An annual report is a document of transparency, especially for NGOs.

When Off-University was established in 2017 by Turkish Scholars who were forced to leave their jobs and their country and by German scholars who were determined to stand in solidarity with their Turkish counterparts, full transparency was, and still is, one of its most prominent tenets.

From the very start, Off-University intended to be much more than a simple conveyor belt between threatened and displaced Turkish scholars and charitable German organizations, a function, although commendable enough, only calls for financial and fiscal transparency. Our aim was more than this: to act as a network of solidarity, not only offering a limited means to return to their academic "jobs", but to huddle together to re-imagine university as such, to think back on what we were doing in the past, and devise new ways of doing it more effectively.

In order to achieve this end we had to:

- Act as a beacon for freedom of thought, of research and teaching-learning, and join in the struggle to eliminate the material conditions that forced these scholars to leave academia and their homelands in the first place.
- Establish a secure environment for them to carry on with their scholarly activities. For this, we had to rely on the new and still developing tools offered by online technologies.
- Establish sturdy ties and networks with existing universities and educational institutions, in order to offer possible career paths for endangered scholars, and possible ways of solidarity and cooperation between scholars.
- Extend our network beyond national borders, including not only displaced Turkish scholars, but scholars from all around the world, from wherever freedom of thought, research and teachinglearning is under threat.
- Create courses and research paths not hitherto accessible to students and academics in order to provide a glimpse of what higher education may become in the coming decades.

Off-University seeks new strategies to uphold and sustain academic life and knowledge threatened by anti-democratic and authoritarian regimes, aimed at academics from all over the world; academics who have been purged from their institutions, forced to resign, legally and politically persecuted and even imprisoned because of their opinions and research.

Since 2017, we have offered 58 online and hybrid courses, provided financial relief and opportunities for teaching and research for 75 threatened scholars from 14 countries, and collaborated with many German universities and NGOs, forming a virtual network.

Our long-term vision is the creation of a *Peace University* that combines in-class and digital educational settings.

COURSES



48
INSTRUCTORS

5 FELLOWS



32 PUBLICATIONS

EMPOWERING MINDS BEYOND BORDERS!

OFF-UNIVERSITY IS COMMITTED TO

GLOBAL PEACE and

A DEMOCRATIC ACADEMIA

COURSES

2021 WINTER SEMESTER

Course Name	Instructors	Participants	Partners
Conflicts & Struggles for Peace	ALİ YALÇIN GÖYMEN	69	Hosted by Bremen University, Department of Anthropology and Cultural Research and the Institute of Political Science and funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.
Heritage, Politics and the Modern State in the Middle East	RAND ABOU ACKL MOHAMAD MOUSTAFA ALABSI	73	Co-sponsored and funded by the New University in In Exile Consortium, and co-sponsored by the Institute of Near and Middle Eastern Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.
Re-imagining University	BÜLENT SOMAY	71	Hosted by Kassel University, International Center for Development and Decent Work (ICDD) and funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.
Türkiye'de "Müebbet"lik Kürt Edebiyatı Life-long Prisoners' Kurdish Literature in Turkey	AHU KARASULU DİLEK HATTATOĞLU	128	Hosted by Ludwig Maximilian University Munich and and funted by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.
Türkiye'de Toplumsal Cinsiyet Gender in Turkey	ARAMIZDA: THE ASSOCIATION FOR GENDER RESEARCH	333	Hosted by Philipps-Universität Marburg and funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung ,

I tell everyone about Off-University's courses who might benefit from them. It's been a very rare source of joy and inspiration for me. Thank you to everyone who has put their time and energy into the course.

Anonymous participant

2022 SUMMER SEMESTER -

I truly believe critical thinking was promoted in this course.
The knowledge acquired in this course will be quite helpful for some of my papers where I have to include discussions.

Anonymous participant

Course Name	Instructor	Participants	Sponsors
Cultural Heritage and Identities in the Middle East	AHMED FATIMA KZZO NEDAL HAJ DARWICH	90	Funded and hosted by Potsdam University, Professorship of Global History and supported by The New University in Exile Consortium.
Decolonizing and Deconstructing the MENA/SWANA	TEOMAN AKTAN MABRUK DERBESH	93	Co-sponsored by The New University in Exile Consortium and hosted by Universität Bremen, Department of Anthropology and Cultural Research with the support of Ludwig -Maximilians-Universität München, Institute of Near and Middle East Studies.
Feminist Philosophy and Women's Poetry	IMAN AL-GHAFARI	82	Hosted by Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Department of English and American Studies.
Filmmaking in Exile	NAGEHAN USKAN	123	Funded by "Beyond Social Cohesion: Global Repertoires of Living Together" (RePLITO) in the framework of The Berlin University Alliance and hosted by Humboldt-Universitāt zu Berlin, The Institute for Asian and African Studies with the support of Lesvos Solidarity. Mosaik Support Center.
Introduction to Postcolonial/Decolonial Theory	BÜLENT SOMAY JULIA STRUTZ	117	Hosted by Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region.
Kültürel Miras ve Otoriter Şehircilik Cultural Heritage & Urban Authoritarianism	M. OĞUZ SİNЕМİLLİOĞLU	38	Hosted by Technische Universität Berlin, Department of Architecture, International Urbanism and Design.
Lecture Series: New Faces of Authoritarianism in the Global South	INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON AUTHORITARIANISM AND COUNTER-STRATEGIES	66	Funded by and organized in collaboration with The Center for Comparative Research on Democracy at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Rosa Luxemburg Stiffung, Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin and Off-University, and hosted by Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.
Sociological Investigation of the University	ASLI VATANSEVER İSMET AKÇA	41	Funded by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Philipp Schwartz Initiative and hosted by Bard College Berlin.
Yemek, Kültür, Toplumsal Cinsiyet Food, Culture, Gender	NEVRA AKDEMİR	122	Hosted by Universität Osnabrück, Institute of Social Sciences Institute of Migration Research and Intercultural Studies.

COLLABORATIONS



AKADEMISCHE NETZWERK OSTEUROPA, AKNO E.V.

We started a collaboration to host four new online courses in addition to two lecture series with scholars from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus in the 2022 Winter Semester.



MARTIN ROTH INITIATIVE

Off-University started exploring the intersection of arts and academia in 2019 with the *Reflection Series*. This new direction led us to host a fellow who is active in the arts and cultural sector in collaboration with Martin Roth Initiative. This collaboration allows us to further include at-risk artists and creative pranctitioners in our work

NEW UNIVERSITY IN EXILE CONSORTIUM

The New University in Exile Concortium at the New School in New York is a worldwide network of universities committed to host endangered scholars, which has been an important partner and supporter. Together we have organized dozens of online seminars taught in tandem by two Consortium scholars in tandem and hosted at our partner universities in Europe. In 2022, the NUiEC co-sponsored two online courses.



OPEN SOCIETY UNIVERSITY NETWORK

Two at-risk scholars from our network participated in the collective syllabus creation of the *Transnational Feminism*, *Solidarity and Social Justice* network course. In this collaboration students and faculty from these institutions engage in rigorous academic work, inspire each other through artistic practice, and work closely with local and international initiatives to further the feminist agenda for social justice.





PHILIP SCHWARTZ INITIATIVE OF ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION

Off-University has collaborated with PSI to provide an opportunity for all PSI fellows to use their lump sum scholarship to organize an online tandem course with Off-University. This collaboration enables at-risk scholars to participate in the online course and co-lead it with a PSI fellow, with a remuneration of 5000 Euro for their participation.



BEYOND SOCIAL COHESION: GLOBAL REPERTOIRES OF LIVING TOGETHER - REPLITO

Off-University is a central non-university project partner in RePLITO, which is funded via the Berlin University Alliance. As part of the project, we have developed an online platform that fosters research and scientific collaboration with tools of collaborative writing and publishing.

ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG

In 2021-2022, Off-University collaborated with Rosa- Luxemburg Stiftung in carrying out the project "Critical Peace Studies in Turkey". The collaboration includes the publication of 10 blog articles on the gendered aspects of war and peace, a working paper, a podcast series and an online lab.



THREATENED SCHOLARS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

Off-University acts as one of the host institutions for scholars of the Threatened Scholars' Integration Initiative (TSII) by the Open Society University Network. We support scholars who have lost their academic positions or cannot remain in their home countries due to threats or actions from authoritarian regimes. In 2022 we offered two residential fellowships and three non-residential fellowships.



FELLOWSHIPS

Off-University's fellowship program provides direct support to scholars through fellowships, allowing them to work in a safe online space for knowledge exchange. Collaborating with organizations such as **MRI** and **TSII**, Off-University has awarded a total of six fellowships, three of which are remote and three of which are residential.

The program provides mental health support and other essential resources for residential fellows, and Off-University is continuously working to improve the program for future fellowship recipients.



I was working as an assistant professor at Gaziantep University and was dismissed from my academic position with a state of emergency decree due to the ongoing lawsuit against me. After being forced to migrate to Germany, I first worked at the University of Osnabrück with a 2-year postdoctoral research fellowship. During this time, I had the chance to both get used to living in Germany and familiarise with the German academia. While I was working on the de-skilling of highly educated women refugees, I was also identifying my own process. Off-University has stood out as a hopeful space with its work, which I have closely observed from the very beginning. For the past year, I have been a fellow of Off-University with my work in the field of food studies. I think that thinking together on a wide spectrum from collaborative work to distance learning techniques has contributed a lot to me. In addition, the chance to be part of an academic network of transnational feminist researchers hosted by Off-University as a TSII fellow has been a very meaningful contribution to me, among other things. The enlargement of academia with all kinds of products reflected in everyday life makes our profession worthwhile. I feel that Off-University's contribution to academic life is very significant in this sense.

NEVRA AKDEMİR, Off-University Fellow



PUBLICATIONS

articles and blog posts published by our fellows and as part of the projects carried out by Off-University.

Our publications can be accessed via our website and our community publishing platform, PubPub

off-university.com

off.pubpub.org

IN THE MEDIA

Several media organizations, including *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, renk. Magazin, nd.Aktuell* and *Deutschlandradio* gave wide publicity to Off-University in their pages and programmes by conducting interviews and publishing extended articles.





RESEARCH

We are currently carrying out two projects:

- Critical Peace Studies in Turkey
- Re-imagining University from the Outside

PODCASTS

In addition to Off-University's written publications, we offer audio broadcasts presented by our researchers and fellows in podcast format on our *Soundcloud* channel.



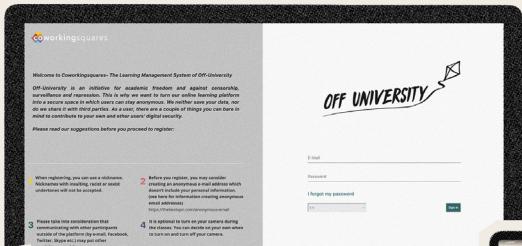
DIGITAL SPACE:

Revolutionizing Access to Critical Knowledge

COWORKINGSQUARES

REPLITO

We contributed to the development of RePLITO's digital knowledge archive, which serves as an infrastructure for its transregional research collaboration and as its open source publication platform.



Coworkingsquares is our own *e-learning platform* that creates *a safe digital space* for knowledge transfer at risk It enables participants to remain anonymous while allowing for intimate, synchronous formats of online learning





OFF.PUBPUB

We established a presence at PubPub, a collaborative publishing platform and a potential alternative to the monopolized market of academic publishing that usually remains inaccessible for

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

CRITICAL PEACE STUDIES IN TURKEY

This year, we initiated the research project *Critical Peace Studies in Turkey* which is funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. The project consists of four components and four types of outputs:

- Working papers which explore the existing landscape of Critical Peace Studies in Turkey.
- A blog series which focuses on gendered aspects of peace and war, which includes a number of contributions such as memory and media in the 1990s, peace education, enforced disappearances in Turkey and restorative justice.
- An online lab which explores non-human aspects of peace and war in Turkey.
- A podcast series which sheds light on critical and innovative approaches to conflict resolution in Turkey.

RE-IMAGINING UNIVERSITY FROM THE OUTSIDE

This project emerged from the *Araştırmahane* summer school, which was a collaborative work by four moderators and 75 participants. It collated an analysis of the history of extra-university organizations in Turkey since the 1980s.

The outputs in the form of interviews with Turkish scholars who participated in the effort to create alternate venues for the university under authoritarian/totalitarian threat. They are already being processed and some of this output is already published online on *PubPub*.

The critique of the university structures since the 11th century, particularly under capitalism and neoliberalism, and imagining, finding and experimenting with alternative ways to 'restructure' the university involves more extensive efforts which could probably take years of research and practice. A workshop and course we held on this subject must be considered as a mere introduction and should be followed up by more research and teaching-learning efforts, mutually supporting each other.

SOME OF OUR EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW EUROPE

At the beginning of October 2021, our board member *Dr. Ertuğ Tombuş* participated in a three-day conference organized by *Akademisches Netzwerk Osteuropa, Friedrich Naumann Foundation* and the *Center for Comparative Research on Democracy* at HU-Berlin. The event was aimed at exchanging experiences and thoughts about the possibilities of creating a "Free East European University" in response to the latest infringements on academic freedom in countries such as Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary and Poland. At the conference, there was a critical debate about the term "East European" which resulted in the decision to found a university called *"University of New Europe"*.

UNIVERSITÄT DER KÜNSTE BERLIN

- Panel Discussion

PLANT AND CULTIVATE THE SEEDS:

Rethinking, Reshaping and Reclaiming the Learning Practices

iREM AKI'S INTERVIEW with ROSA-LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG

ACHIEVING PEACE THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS:

Peacebuilding in Turkey cannot afford to dispense with the contributions of queer Kurdish politics.

WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

With 150 employees the *Wikimedia Foundation Germany* is one of the bigger stakeholders for open-source and free knowledge in the country and therefore an important potential collaboration partner. Especially their section on "marginalized knowledge" is attractive to us as it may allow us to share the knowledge production in our community with their broad network. We recently had the chance to present our organization to the 15 co-leaders of the foundation and hope to develop a number of new collaborations with them as mentioned above. It may also allow us to get a better foothold among the more journalism-oriented organizations in Germany.



DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING with WOMEN AND GENDER IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Off-University co-hosted a second digital security training in January 2022 with the initiative *Women and Gender in Global Affairs* (WGGA) based at Columbia University. The training was facilitated by our project-coordinator Anna Paßlick and touched upon issues such as digital care in research in general, risk assessment, internet security basics and digitally secure tools for academic collaboration. Around 15 scholars from different countries such as Brazil, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Chile and the US participated in the training.

BEYOND ALL BORDERS

- 4 Lingual Hybrid Symposium -

RE-THINKING THE POST-MIGRANT THEATRE:

Possibilities for New Alternative Theater Movements in Germany





THANK YOU

TO OUR FUNDERS AND FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS

ASH: Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit, Gesundheit, Erziehung und Bildu

Berlin University Alliance - Academic Freedom Network

Berlin University Alliance - Replito Initiative

Center for Comparative Research on Democracy

International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies

Martin Roth Initiative

New University in Exile Consortium

Philipps Universität - Marburg

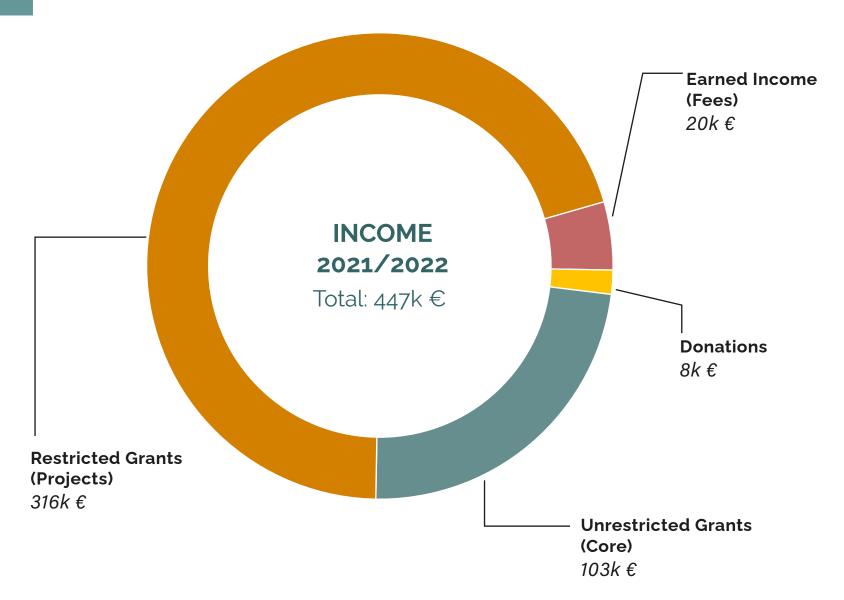
Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

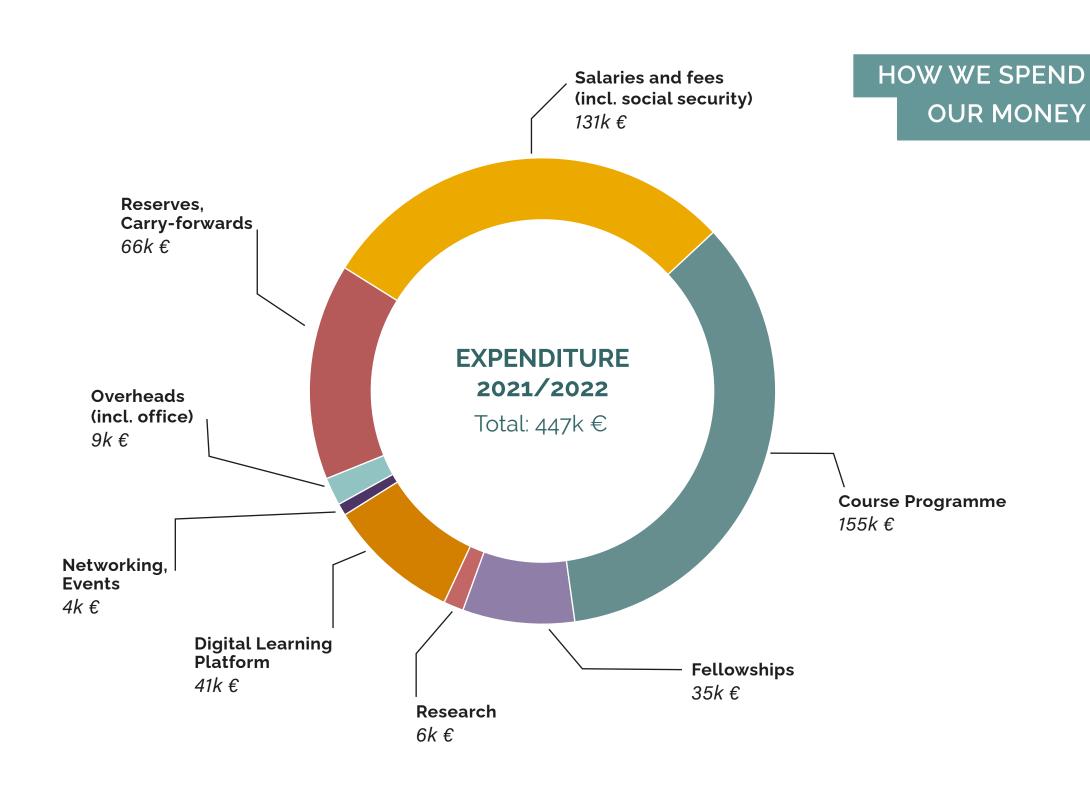
Threatened Scholars' Integration Initiative

Universität Potsdam

and TO OUR DONORS

HOW WE RAISE OUR MONEY





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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

On a worldwide scale, higher education grows in permanence. At the same time, academic freedoms and the autonomy of universities are under political and structural pressures exerted by governments and neo-liberal markets of higher education. Off-University is one of many answers to these conditions.

Off-University operates in a truly international, global, and therefore post-colonial fashion. It is active in fields of knowledge such as gender studies and research on peace that are under threat even in democracies such as Hungary and the USA.

Off-University is engaged in re-thinking a university of the future that is open, participatory, peace-oriented, organised in extremely flat hierarchies. We continue to develop our high-quality online teaching assisted by learning designers, create its own formats of collaborative teaching in class and exert utmost care on data and online security.

Off-University aims to build structures that accommodate creativity, freedom, curiosity, and scholarship and enable critical research on the world as it is and might become.



University without borders — Sınır tanımayan üniversite — Universität ohne Grenzen



Off-University. Organisation für den Frieden e.V. / Wilhelm-Kabus-Str. 24, 10829 Berlin





