

PRESS RELEASE
13 November 2018

New publication \ **“Researchers under threat”**

More information:
SUSANNE HEINKE
Head of Public Relations
Leiterin Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
+49 228 911 96-44, Fax -22
pr@bicc.de
twitter.com/BICC_Bonn

For one reason or another, authoritarian governments, political movements or religious groups seek to actively prohibit and sabotage the work of scientists. Contributing to the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum 2018 “Global Inequalities” in Bonn, BICC organized the session [“Global inequalities in the academic world: Researchers under threat”](#).

BICC’s recent Knowledge Note documents the event.

The session drew attention to the challenges faced by academics in some extremely disabling and threatening environments. Hafiz Boboyorov (Tajikistan) and Cunet Gurer (Turkey) shared their experiences after deciding to leave for Germany, knowing they might not be able to return. Marc von Boemcken (BICC, Germany) described the challenges of the field research project “Forms of local security in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan—The emergence of securityscapes” where he, together with Hafiz Boboyorov, had to learn how to “work under the radar” but not compromising research. Monica Haas (journalist, Germany) brought in the media’s point of view: To attract a broad public interest for the situation of researchers at risk continues to be a tough journalistic challenge for journalists and the editorial departments.

Last but not least, the session explored ways and means of how to help researchers at risk to continue pursuing their scientific careers. Barbara Sheldon of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation underlined that the experiences of von Boemcken and Boboyorov as part of the research team on the ground were an ideal prerequisite for successfully applying for a Philip Schwartz fellowship. The role of Philip Schwartz Initiative is to enable German institutions—be it universities, universities of applied science or independent research institutions—to support researchers under threat not only immediately after having fled from their home countries. The biggest challenge is to

assist these researchers so that they can take the next steps in the transition process of becoming part of the German research community.

Please find the full text of **BICC Knowledge Note 2\2018 "Global inequalities in the academic world: Researchers under threat"** at

<https://www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/global-inequalities-in-the-academic-world-researchers-under-threat-829/>