Panel Discussion
ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT RISK: Perspectives of U.S. and International Scholars

When
Monday March 2nd 7 P.M

Where
International Student Center
The SDSU Passport Office is part of the International Student Center and their directions are the best. Here's the link:
http://isc.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/studyabroad/passportlocation.aspx
Searchable Google Address: 1261 Canyon Crest Dr.

Description
Academic freedom is the indispensable requisite for unfettered teaching and research in institutions of higher education. "The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition" (1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure), American Association of University Professors.

Academic freedom is threatened in the U.S. and internationally. In 2019 the Scholars at Risk Network (https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/) reported 324 attacks on higher education communities in 56 countries.

Panelists from SDSU are joined by two Visiting Scholars at Risk who are teaching at UCSD and SDSU

Refreshments will be provided.

Participants
Mark Freeman (Moderator) is a professor in the School of Theatre, Television and Film. He is past chair of the Senate Freedom of Expression Committee.

Grace Cheng is Director of the College of Arts and Letters Interdisciplinary Human Rights Initiative. She also teaches courses in Political Science, as well as The History of Human Rights at SDSU. Her interests are in human rights in comparative perspective, the relationship between human rights and self-determination, as well as human rights aspects of displacement. Dr. Cheng was a founding member and the first President of the
Association of American University Professors chapter at the university where she previously taught.

*Jonathan Graubart* is a professor of international relations and former director of ISCOR. His areas of research are international law, transnational activism, the UN, and Israel-Palestine. His current book project is entitled, "How Zionism Failed and How it can be Transformed: Lessons from Arendt, Buber and the pre-state Jewish dissenter." Prof. Graubart has organized multiple lecture series over the years, some of which have provoked great controversy.

*Dilsa Deniz* is a Kurdish scholar from Turkey and a Visiting Scholar at Risk UCSD. She is an anthropologist, and has worked extensively as an activist and organizer in women’s movement in Turkey. Her research focuses on the cultural and religious practices in Kurdish communities. After signing a peace petition, she was dismissed from her position in Turkey. Unable to work, she was forced to leave the country.

*Nihat Celik* is a Visiting Scholar at Risk Public Affairs SDSU. He was an assistant professor of political science at a private university in Turkey, which was closed by the government. Along with other academic and administrative staff of his university, he was charged with membership in a terrorist organization. After being arrested and imprisoned, he was released, but forbidden to travel and blacklisted. Prof. Celik’s main research areas are foreign policy analysis, diplomatic history and Middle East politics.

*Mark Wheeler* is Chair of the Philosophy Department, Director of the SDSU Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs, and Chair of the University Senate. He pursues research in ancient Western philosophy, contemporary value theory, and contemporary metaphysics. In the larger community, Professor Wheeler is an active member of the Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and he is president of a non-profit organization that develops sustainable educational resources in Southern Africa.

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