### **Current Events**

### Shelly R. Lesher University of Wisconsin – La Crosse University of Notre Dame

### Chair, APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS)

NSF Grant No. 1713816

CEU Mentoring Program

www.uwlax.edu/ceu

★ HOME > CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES (CEU)
Mentoring program

#### **Mentoring Information**

The CEU mentoring program is an important part of the CEU student experience. Mentors should be graduate students or post docs in nuclear science with a willingness to share their experience with undergraduate students.

#### **Mentor Expectations**

As a mentor you are expected:

- To attend a quick meeting to explain the logistics of your duties
- To attend the opening CEU meeting where you will be paired with 2-3 CEU students. Spend time getting to know them.
- Plan and attend one session with your students or a group of talks. After the session discuss the talks with them.
- Introduce them to a few people in the field (this can be a couple of graduate students or postdoc friends from your group).
- Attend their poster.
- Be a friendly face during the conference.

#### Mentor Application

### **Obvious Current Events**

- North Korea
- Iran Nuclear Deal
- Climate Change / Nuclear Energy
- Anything to do with missiles / nuclear bombs

### Less Obvious?





### THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION of Human Rights

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# Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in Paris 10 December 1948

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world

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## Science & Human Rights

... In talking about human rights today, we are referring primarily to the following demands: protection of the individual against arbitrary infringement by other individuals or by the government; the right to work and to adequate earnings from work; freedom of discussion and teaching; adequate participation of the individual in the formation of his government.

... There is, however, one other human right which is infrequently mentioned but which seems to be destined to become very important: this is the right or the duty, of the individual to abstain from cooperating in activities which he considers wrong or pernicious ...

> Albert Einstein Ideas and Opinions 02/20/1954



### In defense of human rights

- WWII Scientists developed a system to find academic posts for those who were victims of Nazism (Academic Assistance Council, Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars)
- CERN created for international collaboration in pure science free of weapons work
   Auger & Bohr
  - in 1992 the International Science & Technology Centre was established with the overall aim of "nonproliferation through science cooperation"
  - encourages scientists to redirect their scientific skills to peaceful research & integrate into the international science community

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17 March 1954 CERN groundbreaking

### UDHR expanded Adopted 1966, enforced 1976

- 1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone:
  - a. To take part in cultural life;
  - b. To enjoy the benefits of science progress and its applications;
  - c. To benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.
- 2. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for the conservation, the development and the diffusion of science & culture.
- 3. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity.
- 4. The State Parties to the present Covenant recognize the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields.

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN LA CROSSE International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) Article 15

# ICESCR

- 1. Everyone has the right to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications
- 2. Authors have the right to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any of their scientific, literary or artistic productions.
- 3. Governments have a duty to ensure freedom for scientific research and creative activity, including in international engagement.
- 4. Governments should encourage and develop international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields.

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN LACROSSE International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Article 15

Ratification: country agrees to be legally bound by treaty. For international treaties in the US President needs 2/3 vote in the Senate.

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## In search of Peace

- Nobel Peace Prize 97 years, 126 recipients. Majority given to politicians, world leaders, or jurists
- 7 awarded to individual scientists
  - Andrei Sakharov (1975)
  - Joseph Rotblat & Pugwash (1995)
    - An international organization that brings together scholars and public figures to work toward reducing the danger of armed conflicts and to seek solutions to global security threats, particularly those related to nuclear warfare.
- Albert Einstein Peace Prize urges nuclear disarmament, many physicists honored
- Lewis Fry Richardson, Leo Szilard, Ghassan Andoni, Andrei Sakharov are known physicist/peace activists.

### Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS)

APS committee responsible for monitoring the rights of scientists around the world, including the United States, and advocating on behalf of those in need. It apprises the President, the Board and Council of problems encountered bv scientists in the pursuit of their scientific interest or in effecting satisfactory communication with other scientists and may recommend to the President and Council appropriate courses of action designed to alleviate such problems.

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Shelly R. Lesher, Univ. of Wisconsin, La Crosse Don A. Howard, Univ. of Notre Dame lan Jauslin, Institute for Advance Study (GS) Athena S. Sefat, Oak Ridge National Lab Robert S. French, 12<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of Australia (retired) Christopher Watson, Northrop Grumman (PD) Lucas F. Hackl, Penn State Univ. (GS/PD) Petr Navratil, TRIUMF Peter V. Vorobieff, Univ. New Mexico Vasudevan Lakshmirarayanan, Univ. of Waterloo

https://www.aps.org/about/governance/committees/cifs/

## Case: Omid Kokabee (Iran)



Laser scientist – grad student Univ. of Texas at Austin

- Arrested 30 January 2011 when visiting his family in Iran
- Asked to work on a military project, he refused
- "gathering and colluding against national security" (acquitted)
- "communicating with a hostile government" and "illegitimate/illegal earnings"

- Subjected to extended solitary confinement
- Tortured developed kidney disease
- Denied access to medical treatment
- Kidney removed due to cancer which was left untreated for years of repeatedly being denied treatment





- Worldwide protest of his imprisonment and treatment
- 10 year sentence
  - released after 5 years (Aug 2016)

Sakharov Prize (2014) for "his courage in refusing to use his physics knowledge to work on projects that he deemed harmful to humanity in the face of extreme physical and psychological pressure" Turkey Super Duper Cliff Notes

(https://stockholmcf.org/)

UNI

 Gülen is an Islamic scholar and (de facto) leader of the Gülen movement, outlawed in Turkey as an alleged "armed terrorist group." He is in self-exile in Pennsylvania.

Gülen & Erdogan (Rûdaw.net)

- Critic of the current government and advocates full participation within professions, society, and political life of all participants of a country.
- Long-running conflict between Turkey and Kurdish insurgent groups in south-east Turkey

# Turkey (2016)

- Actions against academics:
- Jan: "We will not be a party to this crime!" 1400 Turkish academics sign
- July an attempt was carried out by a faction of the Turkish Armed Forces to seize control of the government because of the erosion of secularism, elimination of democratic rule, disregard for human rights, and Turkey's loss of credibility in the international arena.
  - Erdogan blamed the G
    ülen movement and set out to destroy the movement in Turkey and abroad.
  - Gülen schools & Univ. closed
- Over 169,013 people subject of legal proceedings on coup charges, 48,305 arrested, & 150,000 public servants dismissed
- 5,717 academics fired. (Other numbers are as high as 23,427 and low as 2,808)

Physics Today (30 Mar 2017) Nature (30 Jan 2018) Science (09 Feb 2018)

- Sensitive cases
- Passports revoked
- Physicists
  - Ali Basaran
  - Serkan Gölge
  - Ali Kaya







### Infrared Logarithms in Minisuperspace Inflation

Ali Kaya\*

Boğaziçi University, Department of Physics, 34342, Bebek, İstanbul, Turkey

(Dated: January 9, 2018)

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



This work, which has been done at C.I.K. Ferizli, Sakarya, Turkey without any possibility of using references, is dedicated to my friends at rooms C-1 and E-10 who made my stay bearable at hell for 440 days between 7.10.2016 and 20.12.2017. I am also indebted to the colleagues who show support in these difficult times.

Loops in Inflation

Ali Kaya\*

Boğaziçi University, Department of Physics, 34342, Bebek, İstanbul, Turkey

(Dated: March 23, 2018)

On the archives

### ournal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics

#### An IOP and SISSA journal

#### Acknowledgments

This work has been done during author's mandatory sabbatical at home. I would like to thank my wife Yıldız for her support and patience, my sons Mahir and Zafer for discussions! on diverse elementary school topics and my son Sami for various Skype conversations. I also thank Richard Woodard for a useful e-mail correspondence.

### On $i\epsilon$ prescription in cosmology

### **Can this happen in the West?**

### Ali Kaya

Department of Physics, Boğaziçi University, 34342, Bebek, İstanbul, Turkey

LA

E-mail: ali.kaya@boun.ed Screenshot

## Case: Xiaoxing Xi (USA)



• Arrested – 21 May 2015

- Accused of sending Chinese colleagues schematics of a "pocket" heater which he previously pledged to keep secret.
- Accused to offering to build a world-class laboratory in exchange for a lucrative appointment
- Faced 80 years in prison and \$1 million fine

Material Science Professor Temple University



### SINAP Tube Heater Is Unrelated to the STI Pocket Heater



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#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lpatQ-X6AM

# Case: Xiaoxing Xi (USA)

"I was charged for things that were just normal collaborations. If all these normal activities could be seen as criminal activities, then the environment is quite frightening."

Xiaoxing Xi

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN LA CROSSE All charges dropped – Sept 2015

May 2017 – Suit against the FBI alleges they fabricated evidence and maliciously prosecuted him in violation of his 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights. Suit also claims he was racially and ethnically profiled. (later amended to includes ACLU)

Isolated Case?

### Question

- How many were not born in the US but live in the US?
- Work with a physicist not born in the US?
- Is someone or works with someone who was born in China, Russia, or Iran?



Science 26 June 2019

# US Government Crackdown

- NIH enforcing rules requiring grantees to report foreign ties
- Since 2018 180 letters >60 institutions (corresponds with the US/Chinese trade war)
- Impacted biomedical research community
- Unknown number of scientists fired from US universities
- MD Anderson (3), Emory University (2) all Asian American

- Chinese born Americans are frightened
- Most encouraged to develop contacts abroad
- NIH rules are not obvious or consistent
- Most information is not patented or marketable cancer research (not drug)
- Many have followed Univ. rules
- NIH expects these inquiries to extend to other agencies & to scientists born in Russia & Iran



# Today (29 June 2019)

- Turkey purchased advanced Russian S-400 missile defense systems to be delivered in July
- Trump & Erdogan met today at the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan.

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 US upset about missiles but also, "support for Iran, Russia and Qatar vs. the US-supported Saudi Arabia and Israel"

"We have heard from him personally that this would not happen. We are strategic partners with the United States. As strategic partners, nobody has the right to meddle in Turkey's sovereign rights. Everyone should know this." Erdogan 29 June 2019 @ G20

## Scientific impact of sanctions?

- Free flow of scientific information
  - Foreign scientists cannot attend conferences, collaborative meetings, and experiments
  - US restricted travel to the country / restricted money in country / flight restrictions / national lab "black listed"
- Impact on students
- US scientists under suspicion in the US, alliances questioned
- Push collaborations away from US

LA CROSSE

# Ahmed Abdel-Basit (USA)

- Graduate student at Cairo Univ, Egypt
- He organized peaceful protested against the military's removal of Egypt's first freely elected president, Mohammed Morisi
- University expelled him in June 2014
- Tried in absentia by a military court and sentenced to death in May 2016
- Arrived in the US, immediately applied for asylum – allowed to work while application was processed



- ICE agents detained him April 2018 for "overstaying his visitor visa"
- Jailed and awaited hearing. Faced deportation



- Aug 24, 2018 judge granted asylum
- ICE won't appeal decision
- Ahmed studied for the Physics GRE, and read advanced physics books.
- His HS students took turns visiting him in detention.

## What can you do?

- Speak out when you see injustice
- Report to CIFS
- Help fellow students/colleagues



### Questions? Discussion?

