



Academic Freedom in Historical Perspective

Twenty-Five Years of the *European Review of History* /
Revue européenne d'histoire: An Anniversary Conference

Programme



Central European University, 1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 15.
8-10 November 2018

Cover illustration: Henry of Germany delivering a lecture to university students in Bologna, c. 1360-1390. Artist: Laurentius de Voltolina. *Liber ethicorum des Henricus de Alemannia*. Kupferstichkabinett SMPK, Berlin/Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Min. 1233 <https://people.uwplatt.edu/~turnern/classroomFull.html>

Academic freedom is a central idea in modern scholarship. Even if a precise definition of it is difficult to state, it can be understood as the freedom for members of academia to teach and research without being restrained by political or social surveillance. The concept is not legally defined, it proceeds from customs, conventions or even traditions. Legally, discussions on academic freedom fall into the category of freedom of speech, even if this concept only partly corresponds.

When first arising in the Middle Ages, universities were religious institutions. Throughout the centuries, their precarious autonomy from secular authorities went together with the influence of the Church(es). Modern universities created in the nineteenth century were both instruments of learning the new techniques of capitalism, and for the promotion of the new nation-state. In the twentieth century, dictatorships and totalitarian regimes severely restricted any freedom in academic institutions. In the twenty-first century, academic freedom and freedom of speech can be found only in a few countries, mostly in liberal democracies. Even in liberal democracies, academic freedom remains fragile and is never perfectly achieved. Neo-liberal governance of universities is a significant threat: academics are expected to follow the market-oriented, customer-satisfaction, impact-driven agendas of their employers. Rising bureaucracy and micro-management imposed on academics could also be a way of suppressing conflicting views. Critical thinking and freedom of expressions could also be restricted by students themselves: the recent emergence of 'safe spaces' on campuses, are examples of such a phenomenon. Identity politics and political correctness may also restrain debates.

Proposals have been invited on various relevant topics, not confined only to academic freedom in the strict sense, but including intellectual freedom more broadly. By historicizing the subject, the keynote lectures and the selected papers will hopefully contribute to a better understanding of the predicament of academic freedom in our days. Naturally, we also hope that revised drafts of the papers read at the conference will be submitted for publication in our journal.

We are grateful to Central European University and our publisher Taylor & Francis for sponsoring this conference.

The ERH Editorial Committee

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=editorialBoard&journalCode=cerh20>

Thursday, 8 November

13:00-14:00: Registration, foyer outside Room 101

14:00-14:30: Welcome, Room 103 (László Kontler, CEU History Department / ERH; Éva Fodor, Pro-Rector for Social Sciences and Humanities, CEU; Bertrand Taithe, University of Manchester / Chair of the Editorial Committee, ERH)

14:30-15:45: Keynote 1, Room 103 (Chair: László Kontler, CEU / ERH)

Paula Findlen (Stanford University), *Galileo's laughter: knowledge and freedom in the seventeenth century*

15:45-16:15: coffee break

16:15-18:15: Panel 1, Room 101

Ancient to modern: freedom of thought versus academic freedom
(Chair: Stephen Hodgkinson, University of Nottingham / ERH)

Kostas Stefou (University of Cologne, University of Ioannina)	Why does Socrates refuse to escape from prison? Elenctic inquiry, persuasion and inner freedom in Plato's Crito
Megan M. Daly (University of Florida)	Tacitus' turning point for intellectual freedom
Nathan Marcus (Ben Gurion University)	"Wanderer kommst Du nach Sparta ... ": German historians of antiquity after the defeat of Stalingrad
Ivo De Gennaro (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)	Despotic time and truthless science

Friday, 9 November

9:30-10:30: Panel 2, Room 101

Universities and 'academic freedom': before the nineteenth century (Chair: Katalin Szende, Central European University)

Martina Hacke (University of Düsseldorf)	Libertas scolastica and modern state: the University of Paris, their messengers and the constitutional loss of academic liberties at the end of the 15th century
Piroska Balogh (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)	From the freedom of Göttingen under the control of Vienna. A case study of Professor Johann Ludwig Schedius (1768-1847)

10:30-11:00: coffee break

11:00-12:00: Panel 3, Room 101

Stalinism and the historical profession (Chair: Balázs Trencsényi, CEU)

Paul Maurice (Sorbonne Université / Universität des Saarlandes)	Partisanship and objectivity in history: Jürgen Kuczynski's academic freedom in the GDR-University
Vilmos Erős (University of Debrecen)	The persecutions of a "bourgeois historian": the case of István Szabó in Hungary in the 1950s

12:15-13:30: Keynote 2, Auditorium A

Oleg Kharkhordin (European University, St. Petersburg), *A university as a republic: classical political theories of mixed government and modern experience of shared governance* (Chair: Karin Tilmans, European University Institute / ERH)

13:15-14:30: lunch

14:30-16:00: Panel 4, Room 101

Aspects of academic (un)freedom under communism (Chair: Andrea Talabér, Czech Academy of Sciences / ERH)

Jan Surman (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow)	Soviet Ukrainian science in the 1920s: “freedom” of science before the time of extremes
Dragomir Bondzic (Institute of Contemporary History, Belgrade)	Belgrade University in the shadow of the Communist Party 1945-1950
Barbora Buzassyova (Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava)	Czechoslovak academic cooperation with Africa: privileges and limits of academic work in the era of socialist internationalism

16:00-16:30: coffee break

16:30-18:30: Panel 5, Room 101

Academic freedom under diverse constraints (Chair: Ilse Lazaroms, Utrecht University / ERH)

Katalin Stráner (University of Southampton)	Science in exile: Hungarian émigrés' routes and networks of knowledge dissemination in Europe, 1849-1868
Tetiana Zemliakova (European University Institute, Florence)	German-American academic migrations and the revision of <i>Wissenschaftsfreiheit</i> during the American academic revolution [1865–1910]
Karl Hall (Central European University)	The Republic of Science in the age of industrial research: Laboratory work, creative freedom, and the specter of intellectual automatism
Brahim Benmoh (Chouaib Doukkali University, El Jadida)	Exile and the Concept of Intellectual Freedom: A Critical Reading of the Postcolonial Literary Subjectivity

Saturday, 10 November

9:30-11:00: Panel 6, Room 101

Democracies and the problem(s) of academic freedom (Chair: Lia Brazil, European University Institute / ERH)

Camille Fernandes (University of Franche-Comté)	Academic freedom in France: a legal study about academic freedom in democracies
Per Pippin Aspaas (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)	The rise of Open Science and the breakdown of the alliance between scholar and publisher
Uladzislau Belavusau (University of Amsterdam)	Memory laws: new challenges to academic freedom in Europe

11:00-11:30: coffee break

11:30-12:45

Keynote 3, Room 103 (Chair: Bertrand Taithe, University of Manchester / ERH)

Olivier Beaud (University of Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas), *Reflections on the concept of academic freedom*

Closing remarks