



OSUN Global  
Observatory  
on Academic  
Freedom

CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY

# Global Approaches to Academic Freedom

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM - ROOTS AND REALITIES

MAGNA CHARTA OBSERVATORY WEBINAR

11 MAY 2022

# OSUN Global Observatory on Academic Freedom

[https://elkanacenter.ceu.edu/  
global-observatory-academic-  
freedom](https://elkanacenter.ceu.edu/global-observatory-academic-freedom)

Since March 2021...

Globally connect scholars with expertise and interest in academic freedom

Create a space for debate and discussion on competing concepts and challenges to academic freedom in today's world

Publish high quality research publications on the state of academic freedom in the world

Moving forward: Special issue on Reimagining Academic Freedom, OSUN Research Network on Academic Freedom, Students' Essay contest and much more to follow...

# Changing Understandings of Academic Freedom in the World at a Time of Pandemic and nine theses on the tensions between roots and realities

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A global approach to Academic Freedom

Who defines AF and for whom

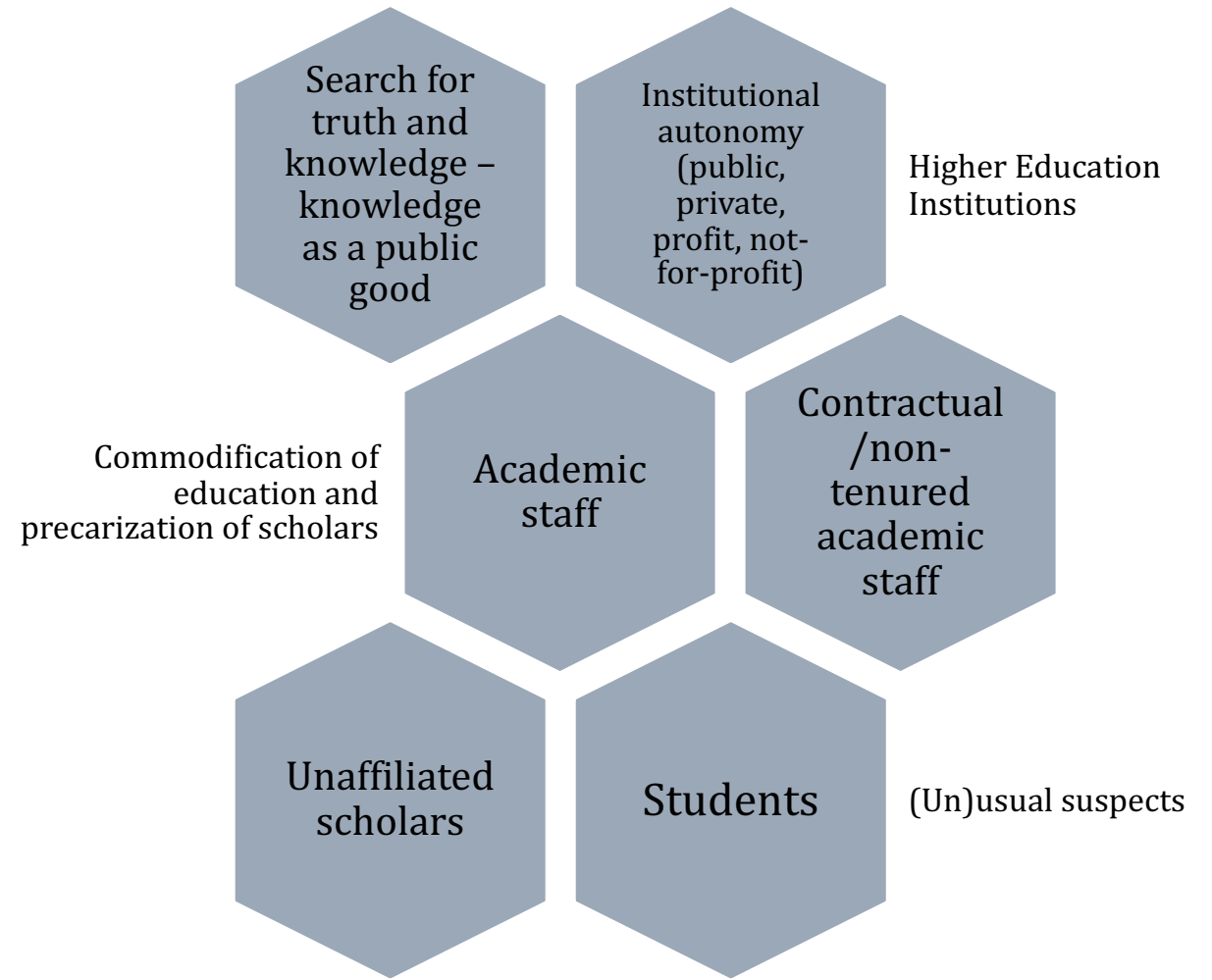
A multilevel approach

Beyond cases and numbers

A bridge between academic knowledge, advocacy and policy development

The relationship between AF and democracy

# 1. Subjects of Academic Freedom



# 2. Lack of global framework(s) or lack of implementation?

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1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom by the American Association of University Professors	UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) General Comment No.13: The Right to Education	1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	1988 International Association of Universities' Policy Statement "Academic Freedom, University Autonomy and Social Responsibility"
1988 Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education	1990 Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility	1990 Dar es Salaam Declaration on Academic Freedom and Social Responsibility of Academics	1997 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966) and the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel	Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1762(2006) on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy
2007 Juba Declaration on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy	Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the responsibility of public authorities for academic freedom and institutional autonomy	2012 EU Charter of Fundamental Rights	2017 UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers	2020 Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy

### 3. A case for the courts?

Freedom of Expression: the European Court of Human Rights - Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR)

October 6, 2020, the European Court of Justice (CJEU) - a landmark verdict in case C-66/18 brought by the EU Commission against the Government of Hungary (Article 13, Article 14(3) and Article 16 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union)

the First Amendment of the US Constitution

## 4. A revival or a crisis?

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- MCU 2020 “As they **create and disseminate knowledge**, universities **question dogmas and established doctrines** and **encourage critical thinking in all students and scholars**. *Academic freedom is their lifeblood; open enquiry and dialogue their nourishment.*”

## 5. Just a European case?



- From calling upon the Magna Charta Universitatum of 1988 in the Bologna Declaration (1999) through nominal support to students and staff in exercising their right to academic freedom (Yerevan Communiqué 2015) to one of the four fundamental values of the EHEA (Paris Communiqué 2018) and a Statement on Academic Freedom (Rome 2020)

**Academic freedom defined as “freedom of academic staff and students to engage in research, teaching, learning and communication in and with society without interference nor fear of reprisal”**

- A fundamental right and a value – universal core tenets
- Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research was adopted (2020)

**“The right to freely define research questions, choose and develop theories, gather empirical material and employ sound academic research methods, to question accepted wisdom and bring forward new ideas”**

- disciplinary limitations; strengthening the link between the EHEA and the ERA; the relevance of internationalization for academic freedom and the importance of trust in science in a democratic society
- Council of Europe developments adopting the EHEA definition of AF



6. Between reporting and reality – are the reports an uncovering tool or a magnifying glass?

- countries, attacks, perceptions -

Tensions between human rights organizations/grassroots initiatives and academic freedom – Human Rights Watch and model Codes of Conduct

Mapping of support programs in Europe for scholars at risk

AcademiaSG. (2021). Academic Freedom in Singapore: gender disparity, along with the citizenship status, more significant than the tenure status or rank of the academic

# 7. Measuring academic freedom

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2020 - the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI), the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), the Scholars at Risk Network, and the V-Dem Institute - Academic Freedom Index (AFI)

Five expert-coded indicators that capture key elements in the de facto realization of academic freedom:

- freedom to research and teach;
- freedom of academic exchange and dissemination;
- institutional autonomy;
- campus integrity; and
- freedom of academic and cultural expression.

## 8. The government(s) and the academic community

*Australia* - April 2019 „without a need to protect from 'feeling offended or shocked or insulted by the lawful speech of another'" (Hunter 2019)

*The UK* – February 2021: appointing a Free Speech and Academic Freedom Champion to the Office for Students board; requiring the Office for Students to introduce a new registration condition on free speech and academic freedom; extending existing free speech duties to apply to students' unions directly and enabling individuals to seek legal redress as a result of a breach of the duty etc.

# 9. the United Nations step in

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- UN Report on academic freedom and the freedom of opinion and expression 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- A right and a value



# Thank you!

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