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The Norwegian Academy
of Science and Letters



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Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

Symposium Programme

Human Rights and Academic Freedom in Europe

10th Leopoldina “Human Rights and Science” Symposium
in cooperation with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA)

Wednesday, 20 March 2024 | 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm

State Representation of Saxony-Anhalt
Luisenstraße 18 | 10117 Berlin

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RIGHT TO EDUCATION

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What is the relationship between human rights and academic freedom? What is the relation between research security and academic freedom and how can we deal with possible tensions? Is academic freedom a *conditio sine qua non* for the functioning and productivity of higher education and research?

Questions like these will be addressed at the symposium on “Human Rights and Academic Freedom in Europe” in Berlin on 20 March 2024, jointly organised by the human rights committees of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The event will center on two primary objectives: firstly, to explore the complex relationship between human rights and academic freedom, and secondly, to discuss the current state of academic freedom within Europe. Assessing existing challenges to academic freedom in Europe and formulating pragmatic strategies to uphold academic freedom for scientists and academics will be in the focus of the discussion.

Programme

Wednesday, 20 March 2024

Room "Sachsen-Anhalt-Saal"

12:00 – 13:00 **Registration**

13:00 – 13:15 **Word of Welcome and Introduction**

Charlotte Klonk, ML
Leopoldina Member of the Presidium, Class IV: Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences

Hans Petter Graver
Chair, DNVA Human Rights Committee

13:15 – 14:45 **First Session: Academic Freedom and Its Relation to Human Rights**

Chair:
Rebecca Everly
Executive Director, International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies

Academic Freedom and Human Rights – A Perspective from the Right to Science

Hans Petter Graver
Professor, Department of Private Law, University of Oslo

'Positive' and 'Negative' Academic Freedoms

Jan Willem Duyvendak
Director, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS-KNAW); University of Amsterdam

Human Rights and Academic Freedom – Ethical Considerations

Alena Buyx, ML
Chair, German Ethics Council; Director, Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine, Technical University of Munich (TUM)

14:45 – 15:15 **Break**

15:15 – 16:45 **Second Session: The Challenges of and Perils to Academic Freedom in Europe**

Chair:
Inge Jonassen
Member, DNVA Human Rights Committee; Head, Department of Informatics, University of Bergen

Academic Freedom Challenges in Europe

Dominik Kalweit
Manager, Programme MSCA4Ukraine, Scholars at Risk Europe

How *de facto* Academic Freedom Is Eroding in the EU Member States

Peter Maassen

*Professor in Higher Education Studies, Department of Education,
University of Oslo*

Strategies to Protect Academic Freedom

Andrea Pető

Professor, Department of Gender Studies, Central European University

16:45 – 17:30

Break

17:30 – 18:30

Panel Discussion: Who Owns Academia?

Moderator:

Ruth Narmann

*Head of International Relations Department,
German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

Panelists:

Armin Nassehi, ML

*Professor of General Sociology and Theory of Society,
Sociology Department, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich*

Katrin Kinzelbach

*Professor of International Politics of Human Rights, Institute of Political
Science, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)*

Torbjørn Røe Isaksen

*Political Editor of E24; former Norwegian Minister of Education
(2013 – 2018)*

Anke Reiffenstuel

*Commissioner for Foreign Science Policy, Foreign Education and
Research Policy, German Federal Foreign Office*

Vitae & Abstracts

(in order of appearance)

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Jutta GÄRTNER

Chair, Leopoldina Human Rights Committee

Professor Jutta Gärtner is Chair of the Human Rights Committee and the Secretary of Medicine as well as a member of the presidium of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

Jutta Gärtner studied medicine at the Catholic University of Leuven in Brussels, Belgium, and at the University of Hamburg, Germany. After successfully obtaining her medical license and doctorate in medicine, she worked for five years as a postdoctoral fellow at the John Hopkins Medical Institute in Baltimore, U.S.A. She then continued her work at the University Children's Hospital at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany. Since 2002, she has been Medical Director of the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the University Medical Centre Göttingen, Georg August University Göttingen, Germany. Her awards include the Child Health Research Award of the National Institute of Health (U.S.A.) in 1990, the Gerhard Hess Prize of the German Research Foundation in 1996, the Adalbert Czerny Prize of the German Society for Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine in 1996, the Reinhart Koselleck Prize of the German Research Foundation in 2014, and the Hamburg Science Award of the Academy of Sciences Hamburg in 2019. She has been a member of the German National Academy of Sciences since 2014. The focus of her research is in the field of neuroscience. She is particularly interested in rare congenital neurometabolic disorders characterized by early-onset neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory processes, often associated with dementia. Understanding the role of neuronal metabolic networks and neuroinflammatory processes in the integrity of brain white matter structure and function is at the forefront of her scientific work. The results of her basic science and clinical research contribute to the understanding of early-onset neurodegenerative processes in children and adolescents and form the basis for the development of neuroprotective and neuroregenerative therapies.



Hans Petter GRAVER

Chair, DNVA Human Rights Committee; and Department of Private Law, University of Oslo

Hans Petter Graver cand jur and dr juris from the University of Oslo. He is chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. He was president of the Academy 2019 – 2021.

He has authored numerous books and articles over a wide field of subjects, including administrative law, competition law, fundamental rights, sociology of law, legal history, legal theory, argumentation and rhetoric. He has published in Norwegian, English, and German, and his work has been translated into Chinese, Slovak, Spanish and Ukrainian. He was awarded an honorary doctorate at the University of Helsinki in 2010, at the University of Heidelberg in 2017, at the University of Uppsala in 2020, and at the University of Bergen 2022. He is an honorary member of the Law Society of Finland and member of the Academia Europaea (2022).

Academic Freedom and Human Rights – A Perspective from the Right to Science

Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) states that countries that are a party to the treaty are obligated to recognize the right of everyone to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,” to take the necessary steps ensure the “conservation, development and diffusion of science,” to protect “the freedom indispensable for scientific research,” and to encourage “international contacts and cooperation” in science. Academic freedom and freedom of scientific research are central components of the right to science and the right to education.

The right to science is essential for the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. There are also clear connections to freedom of thought and freedom of speech.

While progress on the SDGs is generally weak, academic freedom is one area where the trend is a clear retreat for over 50% of the world’s population. Unless this trend is turned, it will be difficult for the world to reach its goals on sustainable development.



Rebecca EVERLY

Executive Director, International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies

Rebecca Everly is the Executive Director of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies and Director of the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Everly, a human rights lawyer, received her Ph.D. from Cambridge University (U.K.) and a Juris Doctor and Masters in International Law from Duke University (U.S.). Her prior experience includes work for the International Development Law Organization (India), the Centre for Promotion of Human Rights Teaching and Research at Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (Malaysia), the Office of the High Representative (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the U.S. State Department.



Jan Willem DUYVENDAK

Director, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS-KNAW); and University of Amsterdam

Jan Willem Duyvendak is Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam, after he had been director of the Verwey-Jonker Research Institute for Social Issues (1999 – 2003) and Professor of Community Development at the Erasmus University

Rotterdam. With regard to his background training, he received his master's degrees in both sociology and philosophy at the University of Groningen. Moreover, he did his doctoral research, which dealt with new social movements, at the University of Amsterdam. His main fields of research currently are the transformation of the welfare state, belonging and 'feeling at home', and nativism.

In 2013 – 2014, Duyvendak was Distinguished Fellow at the Advanced Research Collaborative at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. In Spring 2016 he was Research Fellow at the Paris Institute for Advanced Studies. From July 2017 – July 2019 he was Executive Committee Chair at Council for European Studies. Since 2018 he is director of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS-KNAW). In 2021 he was elected member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and in 2022 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

'Positive' and 'Negative' Academic Freedoms

With the rise of authoritarian regimes, academic freedom is increasingly under pressure, while it is precisely now more than ever that we need space for 'free thinkers', not threatened by politicians. This is vital if we are to confront the major social, political and ecological problems our world faces and to defend human rights.

But in order to stand up for academic freedoms all over the world, we should have a clearer understanding of the various aspects and dimensions. Academic freedoms are not just about defending academia against threats ('negative' freedoms), but also about (material) conditions to use those freedoms ('positive' freedoms).

I will reflect on the relation between (those aspects of) academic freedoms and human rights from the perspective of national academies for arts and sciences, and more in particular as director of the *Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (NIAS-KNAW). Institutes for Advanced Study are the proverbial canaries in a coal mine: they are the first to be attacked by politicians afraid of open debate. As Institutes for Advanced Study are pillars of liberal democracy, all democrats should support our type of institutions that embody academic freedom *par excellence*.



Alena BUYX

Chair, German Ethics Council; Director, Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine, Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Prof. Alena Buyx, MD, is Professor of Ethics in Medicine and Health Technologies and Director of the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine (IGEM) at the Technical University of Munich (TUM).

She holds the *venia legendi* for the subject triad ethics, history and theory of medicine. Since 2020, she has been chair of the German Ethics Council, of which she has already been a member since 2016.

Alena Buyx works across the breadth of biomedical ethics and theory, from the ‘classic’ medical ethics issues arising from clinical practice, to challenges posed by biotechnological innovation and medical research; to ethical and justice issues in modern health care systems. She follows an interdisciplinary approach of embedded ethics, where ethical aspects are part of the development of medical innovations from the very beginning. She collaborates with clinical colleagues as well as with lawyers, social scientists, philosophers, health economists or psychologists.

Alena Buyx publishes high-ranking articles on her research topics, for example in *Science*, *BMJ*, or *Bioethics*. In the last five years, she has raised over €3.5 million in external funding for her own ethics projects (EU, DFG, BMBF, etc.) and has been or is PI in various major proposals (Wissenschaftsrat, Exzellenzinitiative, etc.).

She is a member of various national, international and university committees, regularly advises large international research consortia and gives numerous lectures to a wide variety of audiences. In 2020, she became a member of the Leopoldina in the section “Philosophy of Science”. She also advises various governmental and political institutions on health care issues. Professor Alena Buyx is a fully qualified physician with further degrees in philosophy and sociology. Prior to her appointment in Munich, she worked at the University of Kiel, the University of Münster, Harvard University, was Deputy Director of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and Senior Fellow at University College London.

Human Rights and Academic Freedom – Ethical Considerations



Inge JONASSEN

Member, DNVA Human Rights Committee; Head, Department of Informatics, University of Bergen

Inge Jonassen is professor in informatics at the University of Bergen and since 2021 he has served as the Head of the Department of Informatics. Jonassen obtained his PhD from the University of Bergen in 1996 and has since 2002 been a full professor at the same university. Jonassen's research field is bioinformatics where he performs research into development of algorithms and tools and also contributes to collaborative projects towards marine biology, ecology and medicine. He has been central in building the Computational Biology Unit, a research centre at the University of Bergen, and a national research infrastructure for bioinformatics, since 2014 having status as a national node of the pan-European research infrastructure ELIXIR, an ESFRI landmark. Jonassen is member of the portfolio board for groundbreaking research at the Research Council of Norway, scientific delegate to the board of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), member of the board of ELIXIR, chairman of the board of the Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium (NORA) and member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.



Dominik KALWEIT

Manager, Programme MSCA4Ukraine, Scholars at Risk Europe

Dominik Kalweit is the Programme Manager of MSCA4Ukraine for Scholars at Risk (SAR) Europe, which is the European office of the global SAR network, which works to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom. In his previous tenure, Dominik was the Vice Executive Director and Director for Projects & Initiatives for Kopin, a Maltese non-profit organisation working on migrant support, international development cooperation and global education.

Academic Freedom Challenges in Europe

With reference to Scholars at Risk's Free to Think 2023 report, the Academic Freedom Monitoring Index and field experiences, this presentation will discuss current concerns in relation to academic freedom in Europe. In a call to action, it will further outline what higher education institutions and community members can do to address threats facing this core higher education value.



Peter MAASSEN

Professor in Higher Education Studies, Department of Education, University of Oslo

Peter Maassen is professor at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oslo (UiO), Norway, and extraordinary professor at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. His main research interests are higher education and science governance and policy, academic freedom, and global science collaboration. He has participated in many national and international research projects, expert committees, and evaluation panels in higher education, and has had various leadership positions in higher education. He is currently member of the executive board of the Barratt Due Music Academy, Oslo, and envoy for Africa of the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities. Maassen has since 2022 coordinated the academic studies on the state of play of academic freedom in the EU Member States for the European Parliament and chairing a Working Group of the Council of Europe for implementing the project “The democratic mission of higher education”. He has produced over 250 international publications.

How *de facto* Academic Freedom is Eroding in the EU Member States

Academic freedom is a pillar of open and democratic societies, and the very foundation for high quality academic education and research. From that basic perspective it is extremely worrying that recent studies show that the *de facto* situation of academic freedom in the EU Member States is deteriorating. While systemic and structural infringements of academic freedom have only been identified in Hungary, at the same time, in the other EU Member States threats to academic freedom are argued to come from various sides at the same time. In this presentation I will use a recent study undertaken for the European Parliament’s Academic Freedom Monitor to discuss these threats. Overall, there are concerns in the EU about undue interference from the government and politics in academic freedom, about actions and decisions by university leadership and management threatening academic freedom, about internal conflicts and tensions among academic staff and students forming a potential threat to academic freedom. Furthermore, threats and attacks by civil society actors on individual academics or academic groups, especially through social media, have grown in most EU Member States, forming a serious threat to academic freedom. In addition, the impact of private sector actors on academic freedom remains an issue in many EU Member States, while an emerging worry is how governmental security policies might affect academic freedom. This coincides with worries about the threat of foreign interferences in academia in EU Member States. Finally, a number of policy options to enhance the protection and promotion of academic freedom in the EU will be presented.



Andrea PETŐ

Professor, Department of Gender Studies, Central European University

Andrea Pető is a historian and a Professor at the Department of Gender Studies at Central European University, Vienna, Austria, a Research Affiliate of the CEU Democracy Institute, Budapest, and a Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her works on gender, politics, Holocaust, and war have been translated into 23 languages. In 2018 she was awarded the 2018 All European Academies (ALLEA) Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values and the 2022 University of Oslo Human Rights Award. She is Doctor Honoris Causa of Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden. Recent publications include: *The Women of the Arrow Cross Party. Invisible Hungarian Perpetrators in the Second World War*. Palgrave, Macmillan, 2020. And *Forgotten Massacre: Budapest 1944*. DeGruyter, 2021.

Strategies to Protect Academic Freedom

In the past decade, political scientists, sociologists, and economists have mapped and analyzed the emergence of illiberal states, focusing especially on how illiberal states managed to curtail media freedoms, normalize corruption, eliminate free markets and competition, replace personnel in the legal system, and rewrite constitutions and electoral laws but little attention has been paid to science policy in illiberal states. The talk discusses why science matters to illiberal actors and what are the possible strategies against it.



Ruth NARMANN

Head of International Relations Department, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Dr. Ruth Narmann is Head of the International Relations Department of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. She is responsible for coordinating Leopoldina's input for the annual G7- and G20-scientific policy advice activities and supervises the international formats of the academy. Dr. Narmann joined Leopoldina in 2011. Before that, she gained extensive experience in international science and research management, e.g. at German Research Foundation (DFG) or the Leibniz Association. Dr. Narmann studied Chinese Studies, American Studies, and Speech Communication and Rhetoric at the University of Tübingen (Germany), National Political University (Taipeh, R.O.C.) and Yale University (New Haven, USA). She received her PhD from the University of Tübingen.



Armin NASSEHI

Professor of General Sociology and Theory of Society, Sociology Department, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Armin Nassehi has been Professor of Sociology at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU) since 1998. His main areas of research are sociological theory, cultural sociology, political sociology and the sociology of knowledge. He has produced numerous publications within these fields of research, including more than 20 books. He has been editor of the cultural journal “Kursbuch” since 2012.

Latest book publications: *Patterns. Theory of the Digital Society* (German 2019, English 2023); *Unbehagen. Theorie der überforderten Gesellschaft* (German 2021); *Das große Nein. Eigendynamik und Tragik gesellschaftlicher Proteste* (German 2020); *Gesellschaftliche Grundbegriffe. Ein Glossar der öffentlichen Rede* (German 2023).

Nassehi is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, deputy chairman of the Bavarian Ethics Council, member of the University Council of the LMU Munich and the RWTH Aachen.



Katrin KINZELBACH

Professor of International Politics of Human Rights, Institute of Political Science, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)

Professor Dr. Katrin Kinzelbach is a political scientist who teaches the international politics of human rights at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). As a project manager, she is involved in the global V-Dem project at the University of Gothenburg, where she is responsible for the Academic Freedom Index – a peer-reviewed database on de-facto levels of academic freedom worldwide, with more than one million data points at coder level. Kinzelbach currently serves on the Academic Freedom Committee of the International Studies Association, and previously served on the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s selection committee for the Philipp Schwartz-Initiative, which supports threatened scholars. Prior to her academic career, which has involved stages in Austria, China, Hungary, and the United States, Kinzelbach worked for the United Nations in different duty stations around the world.



Torbjørn Røe ISAKSEN

Political Editor of E24; former Norwegian Minister of Education (2013 – 2018)

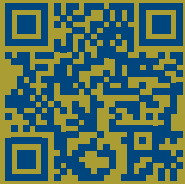
Torbjørn Røe Isaksen is the political editor of E24, Norway's biggest business daily. For eight years between 2013 – 21 he was a minister in the centre-right government and held three consecutive posts: Minister for Research and Education, Trade and Industry and Labour and Social Affairs. He was also a member of the Norwegian parliament and the leadership of Høyre. His academic background is political science and intellectual history, with a master's degree in the former from the University of Oslo. He has written several books, amongst them two books about the history of western conservatism. His latest book "Nobody believes in the future" (Kagge 2023) is an analysis of the political and ideological landscape after the fall of the Berlin wall up to the present situation.



Anke REIFFENSTUEL

Commissioner for Foreign Science Policy, Foreign Education and Research Policy, German Federal Foreign Office

Anke Reiffenstuel is Commissioner for Foreign Science Policy, Foreign Education and Research Policy at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. Until summer 2023, Ms Reiffenstuel was Ambassador at the Embassy in Manila. She has worked in the diplomatic service since 1993, including posts in London, Delhi and Cairo. Before moving to the "Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Humanitarian Aid" Division, she worked in the "United Nations and Global Issues" Division and in the "Political Affairs" Division of the German Federal Foreign Office.



The **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters**, founded in 1857, is a non-governmental, nationwide body which embraces all fields of science. Its main purpose is to support the advancement of science and scholarship in Norway.

The **Leopoldina** is a classical scholarly society and has 1,600 members from almost all branches of science. In 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences and, in this capacity, was invested with two major objectives: representing the German scientific community internationally, and providing policymakers and the public with science-based advice.