

SEMINAR ON

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2021 AT AKADEMIKERTÅRNET,
LINDEVANGS ALLÉ 2, 2000 FREDERIKSBERG

(metro: Fasanvej/Solbjerg)

Academic freedom is crucial in democratic societies. It is necessary for the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and new ideas. Nevertheless, academic freedom is constantly challenged, even in democratic societies.

The present seminar zooms in on various challenges and threats to academic freedom and discusses how best to deal with them. These challenges emanate from several sources. Researchers have been named and shamed by members of parliament, taken to court by private lobby organizations, and/or been personally threatened on social media. Other challenges stem from structural or financial factors. Likewise, academic freedom is currently under pressure internally, within the academic environment itself.

The seminar is jointly organised by The Federation of Professional Associations (Akademikerne), The Committee for The Protection of Scientific and Scholarly Work (UBVA), The Danish Association of Masters and PhDs (DM), The Young Academy under The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Danish National Commission for UNESCO.

The conference will take place both physically, at the location of Akademikerhuset, and online.

Please sign up at www.ubva.dk if you wish to attend in person.

Please use <https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/63038920144> if you wish to attend online.



PROGRAMME

Facilitator and moderator of debates: Mogens Blicher Bjerregård, President of the European Federation of Journalists and Vice-Chair of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO

10.00: WELCOME

Camilla Gregersen, President of The Danish Association of Masters and Ph.D.s (DM)

10.05: INTRODUCTION

Lars Qvistgaard, President of The Federation of Professional Associations

10.15: ACADEMIC FREEDOM AS A PUBLIC GOOD

Keynote: Helle Porsdam, UNESCO chair and Professor of Law and Humanities at the University of Copenhagen.

10.40: SHORT PRESENTATIONS ON SPECIFIC THREATS TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM:

Mogens Holst Nissen, Vice-dean of research at the University of Copenhagen: Academic freedom and external funding.

Kristoffer Kropp, Associate Professor at Roskilde University: Unfair competition between national and international journals

Morten Rosenmeier, Professor at the University of Copenhagen and chairperson of UBVA: Open Access vs. Bibliometrics. A conflict-ridden relationship?

Jane Gleerup, Associate Professor at Roskilde University and Vice-Chair of university teachers in DM: Structural obstacles and the debate on tenure

Stiig Markager, Professor at the University of Aarhus: See you in court ...

Axel Sztetu, Bachelor at the University of Copenhagen: University Students as Public Watchdogs

11.15 COFFEE BREAK

11.30: PANEL DEBATE ON CURRENT CHALLENGES TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN DENMARK:

Karen Vallgård, Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Chairperson of The Young Academy of Denmark

Anja Andersen, Astrophysicist at the University of Copenhagen, member of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO

Bent Ole Gram Mortensen, Professor at the University of Southern Denmark, member of UBVA

DEBATE WITH THE PARTICIPANTS

12.30: LUNCH

13.30: ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN AN INTERNATIONAL LAW PERSPECTIVE

Keynote: Yvonne Donders, Professor of International Human Rights and Cultural Diversity at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

14.00: SHORT PRESENTATIONS ON MONITORING AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TO AND VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM:

Dirk Voorhoof, Professor em. at Gent University, Belgium: How to secure an enabling environment for freedom of expression not only for journalists, but also for academics, artists and activists.

Carsten Staur, The Danish ambassador to UNESCO: UNESCO and freedom of expression for key professions

Denise Roche, Advocacy manager, Scholars at Risk Europe, Maynooth University, Ireland: The key role of Scholars at Risk

Lars Qvistgaard, president of The Confederation of Professional Associations: What to do next?

15.15: CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Elsebeth Gerner Nielsen, Head of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO