

Charting academic freedom in Europe

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Arguments

- Currently, there is a crisis of academic freedom in the EHEA
- This is a European/EHEA crisis, not global or national
- Dimensions of the crisis: intellectual and empiric (political, regulatory)
- Efforts are underway to address challenges to academic freedom in the EHEA, to eventually plot a course away out of this crisis.
- A comparative, applied interdisciplinary study of these efforts shows nature and scope of these efforts; specific actors/stakeholders involved; allows to discuss (assess) chances of success and identify challenges and gaps.
- (Work in progress...)

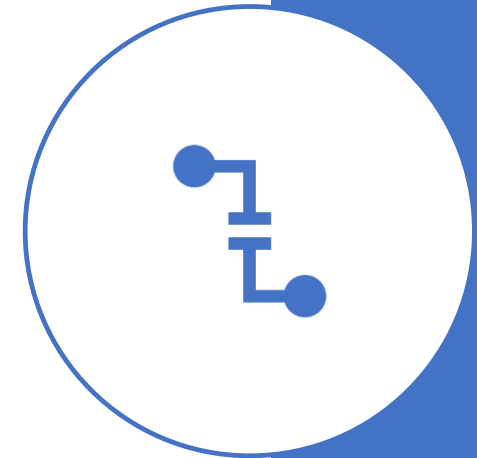
The crisis of academic freedom in Europe

Dimensions of the crisis:

- intellectual: lack of a (common) conceptual reference in the EHEA
- empiric: neglect, restriction, repression (political, policy, regulatory)

Origins of the crisis:

- changing public policy narratives and social epistemologies
- the evolution of EHEA as a sui generis space for higher education





A European crisis –what solution?

National
European
Global

Why not institutional?

What ways out from the crisis of academic freedom in the EHEA?

Charting academic freedom in Europe.

- Reflection on past and current efforts; changes, risks, possible paths
- Missing paths, actors? Better/more realistic and efficient ways to proceed?

Two meanings of charting

Charting Academic Freedom

103 Years of Debate



Charting academic
freedom in the US

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1915 Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure (1915 AAUP Declaration, 1915) .	4
1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure (1940 AAUP Declaration, 1940).	5
Report on the University's Role in Political and Social Action (Kalven Report, 1967)	6
Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression at Yale (Woodward Report, 1974).	7
Academic Freedom and Educational Responsibility (AAC&U Statement, 2006)	8
Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression (Stone Report, 2015).	9
University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents' 2015 Statement Reiterating the Board's Commitment to Academic Freedom and Affirming its Commitment to Freedom of Expression (2015 Wisconsin Statement, 2015)	10
The Architecture of Intellectual Freedom (NAS Statement, 2016)	12
Academic Freedom in the Age of Political Correctness (Pope Center Report, 2016)	13
Truth Seeking, Democracy, and Freedom of Thought and Expression (George & West Statement, 2017) . . .	14
Free Inquiry on Campus: A Statement of Principles (Middlebury Statement, 2017).	15
Campus Free Speech: A Legislative Proposal (Goldwater Statement, 2017)	16

Charting academic freedom in the US

- Documents as milestones (are they all consequential? how?)
- Decisive events (“a timeline of academic freedom”) – mainly court cases
- Authors/actors: AAUP, AAC&U, **individual universities** (Chicago, Yale)
- No international references
- European roots but different trajectory

Charting academic freedom in Europe as mapping (explanatory)

- Historical approaches: history of ideas; history of science; history of higher education; simply History
- Social sciences/interdisciplinary approaches: political science, sociology of higher education); higher education policy (including epistemology)

Documents, influential/decisive moments

Explanatory virtues and limitations: scope and nature, actors, potential/actual impact



Charting academic freedom: normative-actional

References and efforts; relevance/impact and chances

- **National legislation/regulations**
- **Global references/milestones, efforts:**
The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966/76); UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (1997); Magna Charta Universitatum (1988); GPPI (current)



European references and efforts

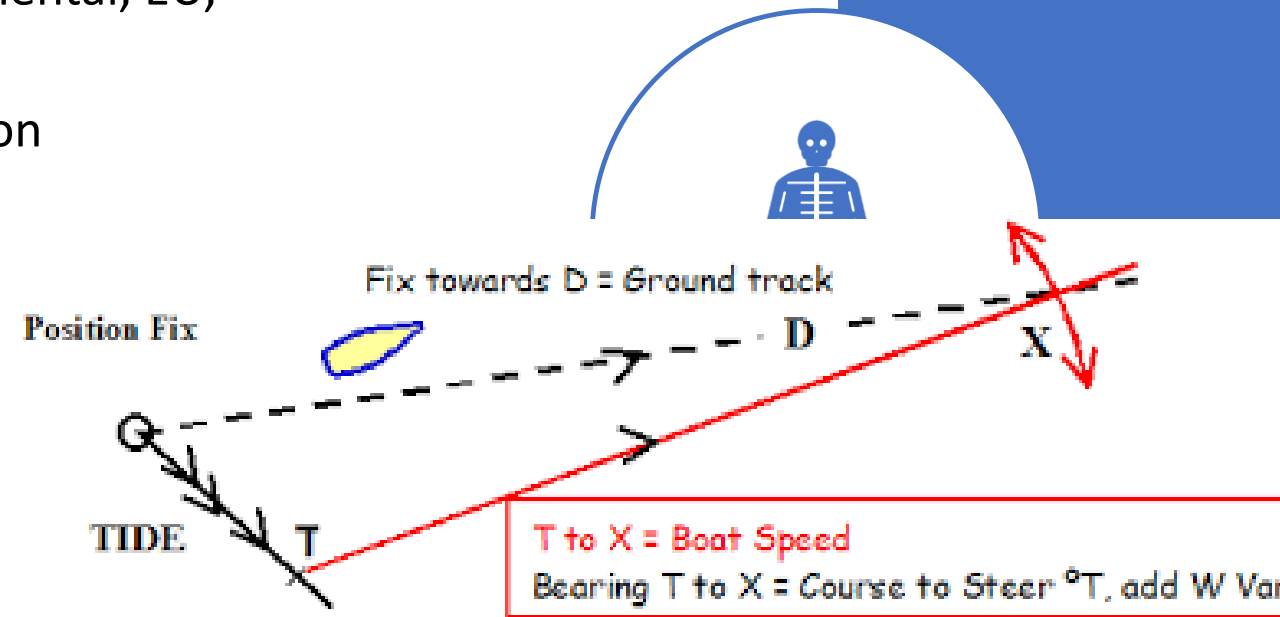
- The European Convention on Human Rights (1950/53).
Other Council of Europe initiatives and efforts
- EU references, efforts?
- Bologna Process. Towards Rome 2020: expectations, progress, risks.
- A role for the EUA, independently from Bologna/BFUG?
- Other initiatives (DAAD).
- An independent European Observatory for Academic Freedom?

So who is plotting the course?

- Europe/EHEA specific (Bologna/intergovernmental, EU, CoE)
- Higher education institutions: missing in action
- The place of university associations (EUA?)
- Other actors

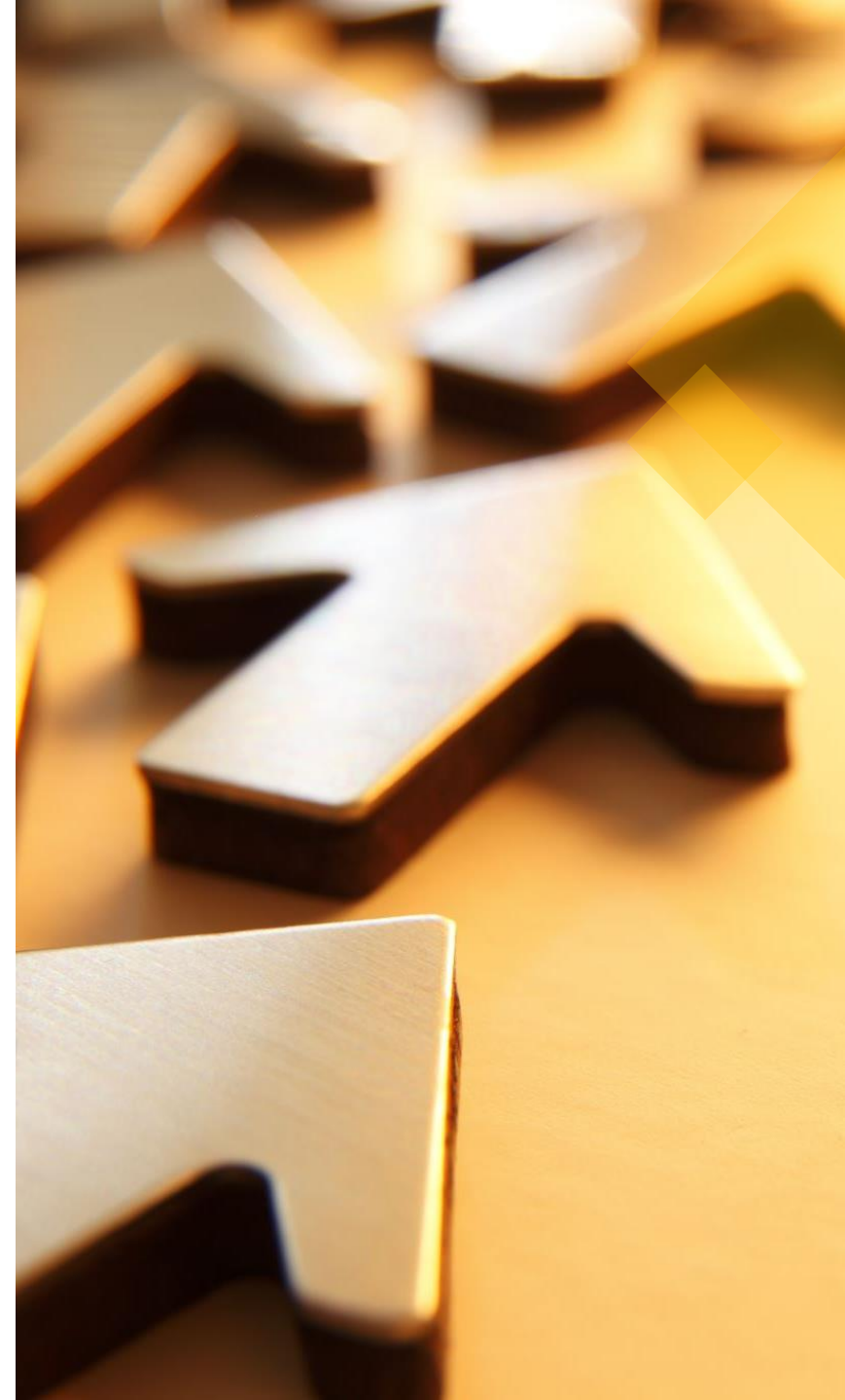
- Who stands a better chance?


Power, capacity, legitimacy



The full way out – or just a starting point?

- Charting academic freedom in Europe
- A European reference for academic freedom (conceptual only, regulatory, legal?)
- A monitoring system
- What means for action?





Lessons from elsewhere –not just Europe and the US

- Arab region
 - China
 - Africa
 - South Asia (India)
 - South-East Asia (Myanmar)
 - Open Society University Network (OSUN)
 - Etc.
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- A European solution for a European crisis? Or rather global solution for a global challenge?
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