

Janika Spannagel: Die Ambivalenz des Zweifels. Wissenschaftsfeindlichkeit als Gefahrenquelle für die liberale Ordnung

In recent decades, the social significance of science has steadily increased alongside the growing complexity of global crises and the desire for rational solutions. However, this development also generates fears and reservations and is viewed critically or even with hostility by parts of the population. This article takes a closer look at this phenomenon of science skepticism. It sheds light on the background and varieties of such positions, uses recent survey data to provide an empirical assessment, and discusses the dangers that anti-scientific attitudes pose to academic freedom and the liberal order.

Katrin Kinzelbach: Universitäten in der Verantwortung. Wissenschaftsfreiheit in der akademischen Zusammenarbeit mit Partnern in autokratischen Staaten

This article builds on an international workshop organised in November 2022 at FAU's Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN) in cooperation with colleagues from King's College London. Using the People's Republic of China as an example, it looks at transnational repression as well as autocratic attempts to influence universities in democratic countries, and discusses human rights-based responses.

Alexandra Kaiser: Autoritäres Recht in Aktion. Verhaltenskodizes für chinesische Wissenschaftler:innen

This article examines the relationship between the rule of law and academic freedom. In the reform era, the Chinese party-state has adopted the principle of “yifa zhiguo” (“governing the country according to law”) and is pushing for the construction of a “socialist rule of law”. The “socialist rule of law” should not be confused with a rule of law state. Under President Xi Jinping we are witnessing an era of legal regression and the shaping of authoritarian law. This article sheds light on the feature of yifa zhiguo as a means of individual obedience. Using recent codes of conduct for academics and case studies, the paper analyses how the demand for individual obedience affects academic freedom.

Lars Lott: Expert:innendaten in der internationalen Menschenrechtsforschung am Beispiel des Academic Freedom Index

The international comparative assessment of human rights violations continues to pose considerable problems for researchers. In order to be able to make statements about

developments over time and between different geographical units, systematic measurement of human rights violations is required, which so-called event data and standards-based datasets typically do not offer. Expert data provide a valid and reliable alternative here. This paper introduces the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) dataset and uses the Academic Freedom Index (AFI) to explain the advantages and disadvantages of expert survey-based records of human rights violations. The AFI is the world's first approach to systematically and internationally compare the human right to academic freedom and serves in this paper to illustrate the merits of the V-Dem dataset.

Klaus D. Beiter: Academic/Scientific Freedom? Or “New Freedom” (Neoliberalism)? – Rebuilding Moral Universities in the Light of the Rights to Education and Science of International Law

Universities have left the path of virtue. Scientific or academic freedom, rooted in human rights to education and science, has come under pressure in many countries, including many democracies. This is significantly a consequence of the pursuit of neoliberal higher education and research policies. This article juxtaposes these two approaches, seeking to explain the differences between the neoliberal approach and the human rights approach to universities. It is argued that rebuilding “moral” – which essentially means free – universities needs to proceed on the basis of the rights to education and science of international law, moreover, in a way that fully appreciates and reflects the significance of these rights for universities.

Marcellina Schmidt, Jan Tobias Polak, Angela Heucher, Lea Smidt und Lena Taube: Kann Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Menschenrechte stärken? Ergebnisse der Evaluierung des Menschenrechtsansatzes in der Privatsektor- und Finanzsystemevaluierung

Human rights standards and principles are an integral part of German development policy. All projects of governmental bilateral development cooperation are supposed to embed them and thereby prevent violations of human rights and contribute to strengthening human rights in partner countries. The German Development Cooperation Evaluation Institute (DEval) has evaluated this question for the area of private sector and financial system development. The results of the evaluation show that many development cooperation projects prepare the ground for the progressive realisation of the right to work by contributing to the creation of jobs. However, they hardly contribute to strengthening fair and favourable working conditions in a targeted and direct way.