



Academic Freedom as a Challenge for International Organizations

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the International Studies Association (ISA) cordially invite you to attend a joint roundtable titled "Academic Freedom as a Challenge for International Organizations" on Thursday, 8 April 2021, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM during the ISA Annual Convention (6-9 April 2021).

Academic Freedom is not a new topic in the scholarly world although recently it has become an increasingly pressing one. Evidence can be found not only in authoritarian countries, but more and more also in established or young democracies or hybrid regimes. The incidents are diverse and display different levels of intervention and repression. In addition to events data, expert assessments aggregated in the Academic Freedom Index (AFi) illuminate shifting levels of scholarly freedom and institutional autonomy worldwide.

Hence, international professional organizations in the scholarly community are increasingly confronted with incidents of infringements of Academic Freedom or with complaints by scholars or institutions. Thus, the issue of Academic Freedom has become a crucial issue for international professional associations and their work. This also refers to the International Studies Association (ISA) and the International Political Science Association (IPSA). With this roundtable, ISA and IPSA jointly engage in exchanging about basic aspects of Academic Freedom (How to define? How to tackle infringements? etc.) and how to cope with issues of Academic Freedom that international organizations are confronted with.

This roundtable is chaired by the Presidents of IPSA and ISA, **Marianne Kneuer** and **Helen Milner**, who will discuss this issue with academics and experts. Participants are the former Chair of Academic Freedom Committee of ISA and President-Elect, **Kristian Gleditsch**; **Katrin Kinzelbach** of the University of Nürnberg-Erlangen who initiated and collaborates in the Academic Freedom Index (AFi); and **Robert Quinn**, Executive Director of the NGO Scholars at Risk Network, New York. Moreover, during this roundtable, there will be presentations on the latest edition of the AFi, capturing its developments in 2020 (Katrin Kinzelbach), as well as on the survey conducted by the IPSA Committee on Academic Freedom among the IPSA collective members on the state of Academic Freedom in their scholarly communities (Marianne Kneuer).

For more information, please visit <https://www.isanet.org/Conferences/ISA2021>