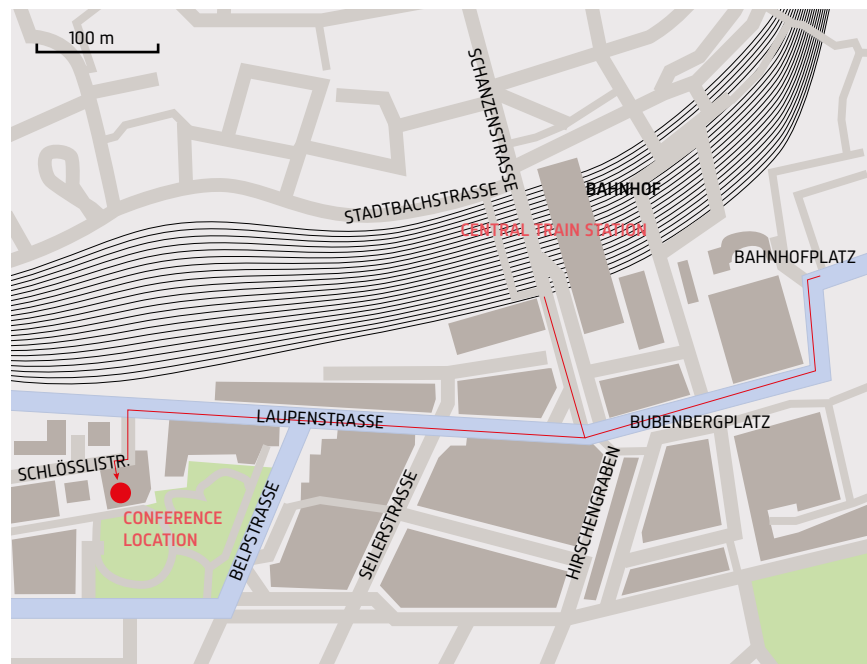


Academic freedom: a universal right at stake!?

Conference on Friday, 8 December 2017
Haus der Universität, Bern



Conference location Haus der Universität, Schloßlistrasse 5, Berne, Switzerland

Getting there 600 metres from Berne central train station, with connections to airports in Berne (30 minutes), Zurich (75 minutes), Basel (80 minutes) and Geneva (120 minutes)

Registration Required until 6 December, due to limited space:
swiss-academies.ch/en/agenda

Contact Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
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swiss-academies.ch/en/international

a⁺ swiss academies
of arts and sciences

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Academic freedom is a core principle that is critical for the conduct of science and its progress. It encompasses the engagement in scholarly practices and the exchange of scientific ideas without interference or suppression. Without academic freedom, the advancement of science and social benefits derived from science will be impaired. Recognising it as a universal right, the principle of academic freedom is enshrined in the UNESCO 'Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel' of 1997 and in national constitutions of close to 100 countries around the globe. Yet, the rights associated with academic freedom are increasingly being encroached upon in recent years in different places and different ways, such as political, religious and commercial pressures on individual scientists and academic institutions.

Seriously concerned by this growing trend, this conference wishes to consider its implications at the individual and institutional level as well as to address possibilities of countering these developments.

Conference organiser

The conference is organised by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences through their Delegate for Human Rights who works at the interface between science and human rights. The Delegate intervenes in cases of human right violations against researchers related to their scientific work and promotes the pertinence of human rights in science. To bolster this work, cooperation is sought with partners nationally and internationally.

Programme

Moderator: • **Roger Pfister**,
Head of International Cooperation at the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

- 9 h 15 **Welcome**
• **Claudia Appenzeller**,
Secretary General of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- 9 h 20 **Welcome and Introduction**
• **Martina Caroni**,
Delegate for Human Rights of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences & Chair for International, Constitutional and Comparative Law at the University of Lucerne
- 9 h 35 **Rights and Responsibilities of Scientists**
• **Leiv K. Sydnes**,
Chair of the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science of the International Council for Science, Paris, France
- 9 h 50 **Evidence from an International Survey**
• **Terence Karran**,
Chair in Higher Education at the University of Lincoln, UK
- 10 h 05 **Discussion**
- 10 h 20 Break
- 10 h 35 **Dealing with Violations of Academic Freedom**
• **Zsolt Enyedi**,
Pro-Rector for Hungarian Affairs & Professor in Political Science at the Central European University CEU, Budapest, Hungary
• **Ayse Dayi**,
Turkish Postdoc in exile through the Scholars at Risk network at the Social Sciences Institute of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland
• **David Bohmert**,
Secretary General of the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research CESAER, Leuven, Belgium
• **Lesley Wilson**,
Secretary General of the European University Association EUA, Brussels, Belgium
- 11 h 15 **Discussion**
- 11 h 35 **'March for Science' as the Way Forward?**
• **Fred Zaumseil**,
Research Fellow at the Berlin Social Science Center WZB, Germany
- 11 h 50 **Discussion**
- 12 h 00 **Closing remarks**
• **Martina Caroni**
- 12 h 10 **End of meeting**