

Call for Papers

Conference

The Spectre Haunting Academia: Understanding the Role of Academia in the Rise of the Far-Right

Date: tba

One of the great emergent issues of the 21st-Century is the rise of the Far-right, bringing with it the antecedent problems of rising nativism, distrust in political institutions, and the destabilisation of the societies where the Far-right takes root. The aim of this conference is to explore this phenomenon in light of academic practices, and to understand the role Academia has globally in producing, challenging, and being the antagonist to this new, extremely adaptive, tide of Far-right ideology. There are many dimensions to this problem, from the use of academic positions as a platform to propound prejudiced political positions, to the reliance on political correctness as a tool for challenging these ideas; a tool that is debated in its efficacy in halting the growing influence of the Far-right and is even argued to feed the momentum of Far-right movements, contributing to the Far-right narrative of universities being 'ideologically possessed indoctrination centres'. Meanwhile, spaces remain open within Academia for the continued publication and usage of scholarship that is argued to animate racist political and cultural discourses. This problem develops greater dimensions where Far-right governments take control of Academic Institutions and alter syllabuses, dictate research directions, and attack academic freedom in the name of political gain. This is just a selection of the vectors in which Academia and the Far-right interact, and it is the nature of this interaction that warrants further investigation and discussion throughout all academic fields - therefore, interdisciplinary submissions are especially encouraged.

Suggested topics for submission include:

- How do scholarly practices and the Far-right interact?
- How does the Far-right as an international entity engage with and perceive Academia?
- Is the Academic toolkit currently deployed sufficient to tackle the rise of the Far-right?
- What are the political methodologies of the Far-right and how do they pertain to Academia?
- Why are Academia's responses to and/or co-options by the Far-right so culturally impactful?
- Which methodologies are appropriate to use in gaining a better understanding of Academia and the Far-right's ideological similarities and differences?
- How do Far-right governments impact Academia, both nationally and globally?
- The efficacy of political correctness in engaging with Far-right ideas and ideology.

The conference is organised by doctoral candidates from the Heidelberg Graduate School for Humanities and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the 4EU+ Alliance. Hence, it is addressed specifically to researchers, PhD candidates, and final-semester Master students from 4EU+ partner universities, who might be eligible for a mobility grant. However, researchers from other universities who might be interested in the topic are also welcome. We will accept topics outside of these questions, as long as they are relevant to the main themes of the conference. Prospective speakers are invited to send short abstracts (ca. 250–300 words) via email to hggsppeergruop@gmail.com. Deadline: **15th May 2022**. The one-day conference will take place at Heidelberg University at the end of June.