

HGGS

HEIDELBERGER  
GRADUIERTENSCHULE  
FÜR GEISTES- UND  
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

## HGGS – Marsilius-Kolleg: “Academic Freedom”

The HGGS is pleased to announce a new course offered in collaboration with the Marsilius-Kolleg. With the contribution of three professors from different fields (Early History, Law, Plant Sciences), you will be able to discuss the concept of “academic freedom” in a multi-disciplinary context:

### »Academic Freedom«

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Meier, Heidelberg Center for the Environment/Ur- und Frühgeschichte**

**Prof. Dr. Ute Mager, Law**

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Rausch, Plant Molecular Physiology**

In times of global pressure on universities the principle of academic freedom is fiercely debated within and outside academia. But surprisingly few academics and even less students have fundamental knowledge what academic freedom is – and what it is not. Debates and actions are often driven by emotions and subjective feelings about a “proper university” instead of well-founded information.

In this course we will

- I. discuss the principle of academic freedom – its history, its juridical status and its formal applicability
- II. learn to discern academic freedom and other civil liberties (e.g. open speech, freedom of opinion)
- III. understand the complexity of taking action in the face of violations to academic freedom
- IV. sharpen our awareness for threats to academic freedom in our own societies.

The course material is in English and discussions will be a mixture of English and German (summaries in English will be possible). We expect engagement and interest – no marks will be given!

The course will be held in consecutive blocks. **Friday sessions** are compulsory (course of one hour), Saturday sessions are optional (course of two hours).

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The course will take place in the conference room of Marsilius-Kolleg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1 (tbc.)

**Dates:**

- **Friday, *dates to be confirmed*, 10 am – 5 pm (compulsory)**
- **Friday, *dates to be confirmed*, 10 am – 5 pm (compulsory)**
- Saturday, *dates to be confirmed*, 10 am – 5 pm
- **Friday, *dates to be confirmed* 10 am – 5 pm (compulsory)**
- Saturday, *dates to be confirmed* 10 am – 5 pm

For participation and any queries, please contact [thomas.meier@zaw.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:thomas.meier@zaw.uni-heidelberg.de)

*The number of participants is limited to 15, so please sign up **soon once the new dates have been confirmed** if you are keen to take this course.*