

**NEWLY EMERGING
FRAMEWORKS OF REFERENCE AND
CONCEPTUAL REFERENCES
FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM:
INSTITUTIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL
AND GLOBAL**

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Global Observatory on Academic
Freedom

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The Global Observatory on Academic Freedom

- Conducts rigorous, innovative, and applied research responding to the need to rethink academic freedom.
- Stimulates debates, connect engaged stakeholders to reflect and act upon possible pathways vital to the preservation of academic freedom and democratic societies.

Activities

- + Applied research regarding changing understandings of academic freedom in the world
- + Participation as a resource center in practical efforts to develop new frameworks of reference for knowledge concepts, values and principles
 - + At the institutional level: [Principles for Reimagining Academic Freedom - King's College Presidential Series](#)
 - + In Europe: EHEA statements on the fundamental values of higher education; monitoring mechanism for the fundamental values in the EHEA; European Parliament legislative initiative for academic freedom/freedom of research
 - + Globally- UNESCO consultations

- + Matei, L., Craciun, D. and Popovici, M. 2023. A study on the relationship between the Fundamental Values of Higher Education and Quality Assurance
- + Almanza, M. and Amaya, S. 2023. Academic Freedom in Colombian Universities. A first attempt at complicating things. Vienna: OSUN Global Observatory on Academic Freedom.
- + Popović, M., Matei, L. and Joly, D. 2022. Changing Understandings of Academic Freedom in the World at the Time of Pandemic. Vienna: OSUN Global Observatory on Academic Freedom
- + Kováts, Gergely and Rónay, Zoltán. 2022. Academic Freedom in Hungary Vienna: OSUN Global Observatory on Academic Freedom
- + Matei, Liviu (29 March 2021) : "The West's Crisis of Academic Freedom"

Frameworks of reference and conceptual references for academic freedom

+ **Conceptual reference:**

- + not only a definition or a link to an existing definition
- + a sufficiently long conceptual elaboration available in a written format that serves as a common reference, go-to conceptual source (or “anchor”) for actors inside and outside the university, which they use in sync for the understanding, codification and practice of academic freedom. *E.g.* : Rome Ministerial Communiqué: Statement on Academic Freedom (2020).

+ Frameworks of reference include (variably):

- + a conceptual reference
- + guidelines for the practice and protection of academic freedom
- + elements of codification (legislative norms, regulations, codes of conduct, etc.)
- + provisions about institutions and/or institutional mechanisms that should or could be utilised to implement the respective understanding and codification of academic freedom.

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A taxonomy of frameworks of reference and conceptual references for academic freedom

- +Institutional
- +National
- +Regional
- +Global

Examples and discussion:

Existing global frameworks (variable)

- + **UNESCO's 1997 and 2017 recommendations** on academic freedom and freedom of scientific research
- + **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**
- + **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**
- + **AAUP Statement (1915, 1940)** - is it global?
- + **Magna Charta Universitatum (1988, 2020)**
- + **Academic Freedom Index (or just as a tool?)**

European frameworks of reference (regional)

- + **EHEA: Conceptual references** (interrelated statements on the fundamental values of higher education), detailed **governmental-level commitments to protect and promote the fundamental values, implementation mechanisms** (monitoring framework).
- + **EU:**
 - + **Jurisprudence:** ECJ - European Commission vs Hungary
 - + **Conceptual reference followed by monitoring attempts:** (Ministerial) Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research in 2020
 - + **European legislation** for academic freedom: EU Parliament

National frameworks of reference

- + **UK:** Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act (2023)
- + **South Africa:** Council on Higher Education - conceptual references and national regulations for academic freedom, university autonomy, and public accountability,

Institutional/inter-institutional developments (UK)

- + King's College London 2022-2023 **King's presidential series on academic freedom** published *Principles for re-imagining academic freedom*
- + **Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group in the UK** published *Model Code of Conduct*

Conclusions/points for discussion

1. There are significant and impactful efforts to develop new frameworks of reference for academic freedom and related values and principles, at different levels.

2. Efforts to develop such frameworks are not sufficiently coordinated/they often ignore each other.