

Call for submissions

'Scholarly Knowledge in the Context of Epistemic Injustice and Authoritarian Censorship'

King's College London
April 25, 2025.

Doing research inside contemporary autocracies requires dealing with institutional constraints ranging from restricted access to relevant literature and incompetent senior academic staff to political censorship. Scholars intending to become a part of the international scientific community and produce high-quality independent research are forced to find ways to circumvent these constraints. In certain cases, such as Russia and Turkey, it means stepping away from universities and other conventional academic institutions to be able to study topics and explore approaches that authorities may consider politically dangerous or undesirable. While leaving universities and academies may provide a higher level of academic freedom, it also poses many threats: from lack of funding to invisibility in the eyes of the Euro-American academia.

Some of these issues are familiar to scholars of the Global South. However, while the problems they encounter may resemble the ones in contemporary autocracies, the roots of their concerns are different. Epistemic oppression and colonial legacy handicap the development of internationally recognised centres of knowledge production outside of Europe and the US. A minority of scholars who manage to overcome the difficulties of being an academic in the Global South tend to leave their countries and integrate into Euro-American academia, thus reinforcing the existing inequality in knowledge production networks.

This one-day symposium will organise knowledge exchange on (1) **the decolonial approaches to scholarly knowledge production in contemporary autocracies and regions of the Global South**, (2) **the impact of authoritarian politics on knowledge production and the political context of research in non-Euro-American regions**; (3) **the past and future of knowledge production, histories of knowledge production under political pressure and the future of academia(s)**. Participants of the symposium will discuss such topics as:

- What can the research practices in non-Euro-American regions tell us about contemporary science?
- How decolonial approaches and first-hand knowledge may enrich our understanding of these regions?
- How do researchers find their routes to science between local and global constraints to knowledge production?

The symposium aims to bring together academic researchers and scholars and activists from non-Euro-American regions. King's Russia Institute will cover travel, accommodation, and visa expenses for several applicants, prioritising applications from the scholars who belong to the global majority and activists from authoritarian regions

We welcome applications for individual contributions. Please include the title, a brief description of your paper (up to 400 words), and your short academic biography (up to 100 words). Presentations will be organised in either thematic panels or roundtable discussions. The organising committee reserves the right to determine the presentation format (panel or round table) for each selected participant.

A link to the submission form is available [here](#) and by scanning the QR code below. If you have any questions, please contact Petr Torkanovskiy at: petr.torkanovskiy@kcl.ac.uk.

Application deadline: January 25

