

## **Academic freedom challenged: Comparing France, Germany and the UK**

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While violations of academic freedom seemed for a long time to be a problem that almost exclusively affected authoritarian regimes, in recent times a deterioration can also be noted in democratic regimes. As part of a right-wing backlash or democratic backsliding, attacks on both individual academics and entire fields of knowledge have been singled out in Europe as well as in North America. Focusing on France, Germany and the United Kingdom (UK), our research has addressed the different mechanisms of repression of academic freedom with particular attention paid to the movements in solidarity with Palestine that spread globally after 7 October 2023. The empirical research triangulates quantitative and qualitative analysis. Using various sources, we have constructed a database that we use to map episodes of repression in the three countries, specifying their targets and mechanisms. A qualitative analysis of various documents subsequently makes it possible to single out the frames used to justify the repression carried out by moral panic entrepreneurs, which include political parties and governments, university administrations, police and courts, pressure groups and the mainstream media.

*More Information*

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