ICON.S Austrian Chapter Conference
“Academic Freedom and Democracy”
7-8 September 2026

Venue: University of Graz, RESOWI-Zentrum, Universitätsstraße 15, 8010 Graz

Conference Office: SR 15.13 (B1, RESOWI)

Conference Programme

7 September 2026

12.00 – 1.00 p.m. Registration - area in front of SZ 15.21 (A2, RESOWI)

1.00 – 3.00 p.m. Keynote Speeches (SZ 15.21 - A2, RESOWI):

- Prof. Vasiliki Kosta, Leiden University
- Prof. Liviu Matei, King´s College London

3.00 – 3.30 p.m. Coffee Break

3.30 – 5.00 p.m. Parallel Sessions I

	Panel 1 (LS 15.01)	Panel 2 (LS 15.02)	Panel 3 (LS 15.03)	Panel 4 (HS 15.02)	Panel 5 (HS 15.11)
7.9.26 3.30-5.00 pm	**Between Resilience and Erosion: Courts, Academics and Liberal Democracy** ▪ Daniel Gosch (Chair) ▪ Antonio Ignazio Arena ▪ Maciej Pach ▪ Ausrine Pasvenskiene	**Academic Freedom and Democratic Backsliding** ▪ Lorenz Dopplinger (Chair) ▪ Yelyzaveta Kutsevliak ▪ Raymond Rasser ▪ Begüm Gürcüoglu	**Censorship by Other Means? Culture Wars, Cancellation, and the Silencing of Academics and Students** ▪ Roman Friedrich (Chair) ▪ Zsolt Körtvélyesi (online) ▪ Giovanni Boggero ▪ Eszter Kirs	**Money, Markets and Metrics: Academic Freedom under Managerial Pressure** ▪ Andreas Joham (Chair) ▪ André Bartsch ▪ Ilaria Balsi (online) ▪ Stefania Parisi (online) ▪ Miriam Carani/Emma Vitale	**Academic Self-Governance and Institutional Autonomy** ▪ Andreas Orator (Chair) ▪ Giada Ragone / Lorenza Violini ▪ Dylan Couck ▪ Robert Böttner ▪ Ariel Axel Slawinski / Igor Adamczyk

5.00 – 5.30 p.m. Coffee Break

5.30 – 7.00 p.m. Parallel Sessions II

	Panel 1 (LS 15.01)	Panel 2 (LS 15.02)	Panel 3 (LS 15.03)	Panel 4 (HS 15.02)	Panel 5 (HS 15.11)	Panel 6 (HS 15.12)
7.9.26 5.30-7.00 pm	**The complex relationship between Academic Freedom and Democracy in (EU) constitutional & democratic theory and Austrian practice** ▪ Laura Pavlidis (Chair) ▪ Angela Lintner ▪ Thomas Kröll ▪ Sebastian Lendl-Lewisch	**Academic freedom in the ECHR** ▪ Vasiliki Kosta (Chair) ▪ Olga Ceran ▪ Emma de Vries ▪ Eleonóra Wagenknecht ▪ Lorenz Dopplinger (Discussant)	**Academic Freedom Beyond the State: Inter- and Transnational Dimensions** ▪ Andreas Orator (Chair) ▪ Sotiris Paphitis ▪ Andrew Scott Mansfield ▪ Aiste Mickonyte-Harzl	**Law Teachers, Justice and Academic Freedom** ▪ Peter Hilpold (Chair) ▪ Harald Scheu ▪ Paolo Piva ▪ Stefan Oeter	**Italian Regulations on University Recruitement and the Quality of Research: Between Substantive Rules and Procedural Aspects** ▪ Piera Vipiana (Chair) ▪ Matteo Timo ▪ Giovanni Botto ▪ Sara Scazzola	**Protecting Academic Freedom in Europe: Conceptual and Practical Challenges** ▪ Hedwig Unger (Chair) ▪ Liviu Matei ▪ Rosalind Pritchard ▪ Theodor Leiber ▪ Jurgen Rienks

8.00 p.m. Conference Dinner

Gösser Bräu Graz, Neutorgasse 48

ICON-S AUSTRIA

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9.00 – 10.30 a.m. Parallel Sessions III

	Panel 1 (LS 15.01)	Panel 2 (LS 15.02)	Panel 3 (LS 15.03)	Panel 4 (HS 15.02)
8.9.26 9.00-10.30 am	**The European Concept(s) of Academic Freedom and Democracy** ▪ Hedwig Unger (Chair) ▪ Laura Pavlidis ▪ Nikolas Eisentraut ▪ Margarita Cvitkovic	**Comparative Perspectives on Academic Freedom and the Right to Education in Democratic Decline** ▪ Andrew Scott Mansfield (Chair) ▪ Mukesh Kumar Meghwar ▪ Oluchi Queen Egbuta ▪ Mohammad Imran Khushal	**Educating Democracy, Democratizing Education** ▪ Lorenz Dopplinger (Chair) ▪ Martin Bernard ▪ Hanna Palmanshofer ▪ Christoph Turecek ▪ Helmut Sax	**Feeds, Faculty and Freedom: Neutrality, Expertise and Knowledge Institutions in the Platform Age** ▪ Florian Werni (Chair) ▪ Rafael B Nunes ▪ Georgia Patanzi ▪ Sophia Zima

10.30 – 11.00 a.m. Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 p.m. Parallel Sessions IV

	Panel 1 (LS 15.01)	Panel 2 (LS 15.02)	Panel 3 (LS 15.03)	Panel 4 (HS 15.02)
8.9.26 11.00-12.30 am	**Digital Transformations: Academia in the Age of Surveillance and AI** ▪ Rafael B Nunes (Chair) ▪ Poorva Sharma ▪ Christoph Schranz ▪ Gennaro Cifinelli ▪ Alina Gentimir (online)	**Beyond the Ivory Tower: Knowledge Dissemination and Democratic Engagement** ▪ Christiane Ahlborn (Chair) ▪ Abhijeet Dhere ▪ Matteo Milanesi ▪ Federico Girelli ▪ Francesco Cirillo	**Knowledge Production, Research Methods and Academic Practice** ▪ Andreas Joham (Chair) ▪ Nadav Dagan ▪ Maria Francesca De Tullio ▪ Prerana Srinath ▪ Giovanni D´Alessandro (online)	**Higher Education Governance and Academic Freedom** ▪ Hedwig Unger (Chair) ▪ Margarita Cvitkovic ▪ Anna Strassmeier ▪ Alexander Loder ▪ Eleonóra Wagenknecht

12.45 – 13.15 p.m. Closing Ceremony (SZ 15.21 - A2, RESOWI)

13.30 p.m. End of the Conference