



"Academic Freedom and Democracy"
Graz, 7-8 September 2026

ICON.S Austrian Chapter Conference

"Academic Freedom and Democracy"

7-8 September 2026

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

Conference Programme

7 September 2026

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| 12.00 – 1.00 p.m. | Registration |
| 1.00 – 3.00 p.m. | Keynote Speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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 |
| 5.00 – 5.30 p.m. | Coffee Break |
| 5.30 – 7.00 p.m. | Parallel Sessions II |

Conference Dinner



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9.00 – 10.30 a.m. Parallel Sessions III

10.30 – 11.00 a.m. Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 p.m. Parallel Sessions IV

12.45 – 13.15 p.m. Closing Ceremony

13.30 p.m. End of the Conference

	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 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 Kutseviak ▪ Raymond Rasser ▪ Begüm Gürcüoğlu	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 ▪ Miriam Carani/Emma Vitale	Academic Self-Governance and Institutional Autonomy ▪ Andreas Orator (Chair) ▪ Giada Ragone ▪ Dylan Couck ▪ Robert Böttner ▪ Ariel Axel Slawinski / Igor Adamczyk	
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-Lewisich	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 Recruitment 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

	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) ▪ Mukes 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	
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 ▪ Federico Girelli ▪ Francesco Cirillo ▪ Alina Gentimir (online)	Beyond the Ivory Tower: Knowledge Dissemination and Democratic Engagement ▪ Christiane Ahlborn (Chair) ▪ Alexandra Parragh ▪ Rebecka Lettevall ▪ Abhijeet Dhere ▪ Matteo Milanesi	Knowledge Production, Research Methods and Academic Practice ▪ Andreas Joham (Chair) ▪ Nadav Dagan ▪ Maria Francesca De Tullio ▪ Prerana Srinath	Higher Education Governance and Academic Freedom ▪ Hedwig Unger (Chair) ▪ Margarita Cvitkovic ▪ Anna Strassmeier ▪ Alexander Loder ▪ Eleonóra Wagenknecht	