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CONGRESS

Middle East and Muslim Worlds
Studies

28 June- 2 July 2021



Roundtable

Academic Freedom Europe Maghreb Middle East

Debates, controversies and mobilisations about academic freedom have multiplied in our professional circles in recent years. Cases or problems have become emblems of causes, infringements or warning points. But it is also a shared concern and cleavages that are growing and expressing themselves in many arenas in France, the Middle East, Europe, across the Atlantic and in the Muslim worlds. Research and teaching on Islam, on post-coloniality, on gender and on identity constructions and assignments are particularly sensitive to these issues. More broadly, the social sciences, their professions and their professionals are particular targets of authoritarian policies, as illustrated by the repression to which some of our colleagues are subjected. Based on testimonies, reflections on specific cases, and more theoretical reflections, this roundtable will aim to discuss the threats to academic freedom, as they arise in these different spaces. It will also aim to discuss possible means of action, whereas, unlike the United States, few groups in Europe defend this principle in an organised manner.

Convenors : Myriam Catusse (IREMAM, CNRS) and Elise Massicard (CERI, CNRS)

Jean-François Bayart (Institut de Hautes Etudes Internationales et de Développement, Genève)

Laurie Brand (University of South California / Middle East Studies Association, Chair, Committee of Academic Freedom)

Ahmet Insel (Université Galatasaray, Istanbul and publishing house coordinator İletişim)

Aude Merlin (Université Libre de Bruxelles)