



## Forskarinternat 7-8 december IPD

**Welcome to our 2023 research conference on *Democracy and Academic Freedom* at Clarion.**

Academic freedom is a bedrock of any democratic society. However, the academic institution faces mounting challenges today in many countries and Sweden is not an exception. For instance, in the United States, increasing polarization and the politicization of education have led to a troubling erosion of academic freedom. Scholars who engage in research or teaching that challenges prevailing political narratives or orthodoxy often find themselves targeted for harassment, online abuse, or even professional consequences- a case in point is the recent events at the University of Karlstad in Sweden. This climate of intimidation stifles the open exchange of ideas and knowledge, undermining the essential role of academia in fostering a well-informed and engaged citizenry, which is critical for a healthy democracy.

In Europe, a similar threat to democracy is emerging as governments in some countries exert undue influence over academic institutions. In nations where populist and authoritarian tendencies are on the rise, scholars who criticize government policies, conduct research on controversial subjects, or express dissenting opinions are increasingly at risk of harassment, censorship etc. Such interference not only hampers the integrity of research and teaching but also undermines the democratic values of free speech and critical thinking that underpin open societies. The erosion of academic freedom in Sweden underscores the vital role that academia plays in maintaining a well-informed and critical citizenry. The protection of academic freedom is a crucial safeguard against threats to democracy.

- How can we as scholars play our part in mitigating the politicisation of academic field in Sweden?
- What structures and support systems do we need to put in place to support colleagues that can be subjected to harassment?
- How can we as a profession work to maintain the integrity of the academic field?

The overall aim is that spurring from these discussions at the research conference groups will be organically created based on interest. Suggestions of such groups under the theme of democracy and academic freedom can focus on:

1. Cooperation with society – how we as academics can take an active part toward academic freedom against the increasingly polemic and ideological debates in society?
2. Research – how can we maintain integrity in our academic field?
3. Teaching – how can we support colleagues and students targeted by harassment due to research topics or identity?
4. Improved internal democracy – what forums, meetings and decision-making instances could become more democratic and transparent within our department and in what ways?

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## Program 7 dec

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08.00	Kaffe vid ankomst.
08.30	Niclas inleder <b>Demokrati, demokratisering och utbildningens framtid och utformning – en gemensam angelägenhet för forskare vid IPD när allt fler vänder demokratin ryggen</b> (ca 10 min)
08.45-10.00	Följande diskussion i grupper om revitaliserande av frågor som rör demokrati och utbildning i pedagogiken som forskningsfält (45 min)  Återsamling i stora salen med sammanställning av gruppdiskussionerna (15 min)
10.00	Förmiddagsfika
10.30	Klas inleder temat <b>Demokratiska former av kommunikation i ljuset av antidemokratiska och polariserande klimat</b> (ca 10 min)
10.45	Följande diskussioner i grupper om samverkan i samhället och kommunikation med kritiker till pedagogisk forskning (45 min)  Återsamling i stora salen med sammanställning av gruppdiskussionerna (15 min)
12.00	Lunch
13.00	Ali inleder <b>The politicisation of academic freedom</b> (ca 10 min)
13.45	Följande diskussion om hur vi gemensamt kan värna akademisk integritet i ljuset av politisering av akademien (45 min)  Återsamling i stora salen med sammanställning av gruppdiskussionerna (15 min)
14.30	Eftermiddagsfika
15.00	Jessica Gagnon <b>Threats against academic freedom – international experiences from the UK and US</b> (45 min)
15.45	Gemensam reflektion i stora salen (30 min)
18.00	Middag

## Program 8 dec

- 08.30 Paula inleder **Undervisning och akademisk frihet** (ca 10 min)
- 08.45 Gruppdiskussioner om hur vi kan verka vid Stockholms universitet för stöd av studenter och lärare (45 min)  
Återsamling i stora salen med sammanställning av gruppdiskussionerna (15 min)
- 10.30 Förmiddagsfika
- 11.00 - Niclas, Klas, Ali och Paula sammanfattar internatets diskussioner och hur vi ser framåt.  
12.00

Om intresse finns organisera grupper efter internatet, som kan arbeta vidare under tematiken om demokrati och akademisk frihet.

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