

# PANEL ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

## **Adam Bodnar, Martina Caroni, Gökçe Çataloluk & András Sajó**

*Thursday 11 July, 19.00-20.30, HS 1*

Academic freedom forms a central element of a free inquiring society. The freedom to do research, to publish the results of such and to engage critically in scientific debates about the content of scientific findings without censorship and oppression is a central asset, not only for the personal self-development of researchers. It is crucial, too, for the process of scientific understanding in all fields of research, the natural sciences as much as social sciences or the humanities. It is also important for the epistemic culture underlying a democracy based on knowledge and not on post-truth policies. The panel will discuss current challenges to academic freedom, drawing in particular from the experience of current attacks against this important right in various countries.



**Adam Bodnar** studied at the University of Warsaw and at the CEU Budapest in the field of comparative constitutional law. In 2006, he was awarded a PhD degree at the University of Warsaw in the field of constitutional law. From 2004 to 2015, he was associated with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, serving for a period as its vice-president. He is also an Expert of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Between 2013 and 2014, he was a member of the board of directors of the UN Fund for Victims of Torture. Bodnar has cooperated with various NGOs, including Panaptykon Fund, ClientEarth Polska and Prof. Zbigniew Hołda Association. In 2015, he took office as Ombudsman after being nominated by the Democratic Left Alliance Parliamentary Club. He is primarily interested in the protection of fundamental rights, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice, EU citizenship, and the role of NGOs in pursuing public interest and freedom of speech.



**Martina Caroni** studied law at the University of Bern. After graduating in 1993, she worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Public Law at the University of Bern, and continued there as a senior assistant after finishing her dissertation. She was awarded an LL.M. at Yale Law School in 2000/2001, where she continued her research until 2002. She has been employed at the University of Lucerne since April 2002, first as an assistant professor and, after finishing her habilitation in 2006, as a full professor for public law and international law. She was elected as a member of the Federal Commission on Migration in July 2009. Her main interests in teaching and research include migration law, general and humanitarian international law, human rights and constitutional law. Since March 2017, she is also Vice Rector for Teaching and International Relations.



**Gökçe Çataloluk** is a member of Istanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law, and has worked at the chair of philosophy and sociology of law since 2011. She graduated from Marmara University Faculty of Law in Istanbul and holds a master's degree in European Union Law. Her PhD, on systems theory in law, was awarded by the Istanbul University. Her main research areas are law and literature and critical approaches in law. She is on the editorial board of two journals of law and is also a member of Turkish Philosophical Society and Social Rights Society.



**András Sajó** served as a judge at the European Court of Human Rights from 2008 to 2017. He is a professor at CEU and Global Visiting Professor of Law at NYU Law School. In addition to his stature as a prominent constitutionalist, he is a distinguished scholar in the field of human rights, including media regulation. Professor Sajó has been extensively involved in legal drafting throughout Eastern Europe. In addition, he participated in and/or advised on the drafting of the Ukrainian, Georgian, and South African constitutions. He served as Counsel to the President of the Republic of Hungary and chaired the Media Codification Committee of the Hungarian Government. He was also the principal drafter of the Environment Code for the Hungarian Parliament, as well as the founder and speaker of the Hungarian League for the Abolition of the Death Penalty.