

ACADEMIC FREEDOM MONITORING AND INDICATORS

Methodologies from the Global South

رصد ومؤشرات الحرية
الأكاديمية
منهجيات من الجنوب العالمي

BEIRUT | OCTOBER | 28
بيروت | تشرين الأول

This workshop will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation into and from Arabic.

تُعقد هذه الورشة باللغة الإنكليزية مع توفر ترجمة فورية من وإلى اللغة العربية.



المجلس العربي
للعلوم الاجتماعية
Arab Council
for the Social Sciences
Conseil Arabe
pour les Sciences Sociales

Workshop Overview

The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) organizes this workshop titled **Academic Freedom Monitoring and Indicators: Methodologies from the Global South** jointly with the “Latin American Council for the Social Sciences” (CLACSO) and the “Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa” (CODESRIA), within a collaborative project titled **Social and Institutional Learnings in Academic Freedom**.

While global academic freedom monitoring tools produce data and analysis essential to understanding the conditions of knowledge production, they often dismiss covert silencing, subtle constraints, and coercion tactics: self-censorship, institutional surveillance, and compromised institutional autonomy. They also bypass the broader environment of knowledge production, economic and social precarity, and the global and regional developments or conflicts that continue to strain the landscape of knowledge production.

This workshop recenters national and local contexts and conditions in countries of the Global South to uncover and develop new, locally based methodologies and modalities to monitor academic freedom. It moves beyond Western-centric definitions and explores local and decolonial frameworks and approaches for understanding and protecting academic freedom. Together, workshop participants will reflect on issues of academic freedom with a focus on the lived experience of scholars across academic and research settings in the Global South, particularly in the Arab region. This will take place through interaction and conversation between representatives of the different regions participating in the workshop, both physically and online. In addition to speakers from the Global South, the workshop will include ACSS grantees, fellows, working group members, and other participants in the Research Forum.

Inherent in this conversation lies the general context of knowledge production as well as various repression and resistance strategies as follows:

- **Authoritarianism, crisis and conflict:** The impact of authoritarian rule on the repression of academic freedom as well as the effect of wars and conflicts, university closures, blockades, and scholasticide on physical security and academic integrity.
- **Censorship and silencing:** The implication of explicit and top-down state intervention on curbing academic freedom as well as covert forms of silencing, including societal pressure, university bureaucracies, and donors’ agendas.
- **Resistance and safeguarding:** Researchers’ resistance strategies and coping mechanisms, as well as the role of solidarity networks and institutional safeguards and protection strategies.