

Advocacy Seminar on Academic Freedom 2020

SPGI Department, University of Padova

Laboratory for students (6 CFU)

Coordinators and instructors: Claudia Padovani and Francesca Helm

Speakers: Various speakers (scholars and students, see schedule)

This laboratory is organized in collaboration between SPGI department, the Universities of Padova and Trento and the international network [Scholars at Risk](#).

The *Advocacy Seminar Series on Academic Freedom* provide university students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through direct engagement on behalf of threatened members of the global higher education community facing unjust restrictions, prosecution, or imprisonment. Over the course of the seminar, students will gain a deep understanding of both the value of the academic freedom they enjoy, and the risks scholars and students around the world face in the pursuit of knowledge. Students organize awareness-raising advocacy initiatives and prepare an end-of-seminar report. In addition, students will have the chance to put their advocacy skills into practice at a number of public events. Beside the class work, students are expected to successfully complete a SAR-produced MOOC on academic freedom titled 'Dangerous Questions' (video-lectures and tasks like commentaries, writing posts etc). This is part of innovative approaches to blended learning and is an integral part of the seminar.

This experiential laboratory is designed to give students a foundation in:

- Human rights research, standards, and mechanisms;
- Organizing and advocacy;
- Persuasive writing;
- Leadership and teamwork skills;
- Intercultural competences.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The seminar is offered as a Laboratory activity for students in the European and Global Studies EGOS degree (max 20 participants; priority is given to students enrolled in II year, then I year with a background in international studies)

The seminar also welcomes students from the Master degrees in Strategie della Comunicazione (max 5 participants) and Human Rights and Multilevel Governance (max 5 participants)

The foreseen activities require different disciplinary backgrounds, while offering an opportunity to experiment with the exchange of diverse knowledges and competences in the conduct of a practical project. Collaborative interaction will also involve students from the University of Trento.

Students should participate to the **80% of the activities**.

Upon the successful completion of the activities students will be recognised **6 CFU** (18 hours in class + approx. 10 hours virtual exchange training + approx. 15 hours in advocacy).

Final evaluation is based on:

Participation in class and group activities – 20%

Advocacy campaign (group) – 30%

Final report (group) – 30%

Individual reflective paper (max 4 pages) – 20%

Requirements: In due consideration of the fact that we will work on sensitive issues, what we expect from each other is motivation and the possibility to commit ourselves to the project until its completion. Further, students should consider that, while the coordinators will be there throughout to support the activities, autonomy and spirit of initiative in deciding how, where and with whom to carry advocacy. And to write the report, is highly important. Finally, a good knowledge of English (writing, speaking and listening) is essential. Credit-seekers and free-riders are discouraged to apply!!

This is a laboratory practice **we do not expect not attending students** – In case of not attending students they are required to contact the instructors: specific readings and research activities will be assigned.

Please register using this [online form](#) – see also QR code



For information and registration contact:

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Registration is open until Monday 2nd March

THE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Time	Venue
Part I – Introduction: academic freedom and SAR seminar			
19/03	<i>Introduction to SAR and academic freedom</i> Speakers: C. Padovani and F. Helm with Adam Braver (Roger Williams University (USA) via zoom) Practical: case selection, group division	14-17	Aula Comune SPGI, via del Santo 28, ground floor
26/03	<i>Academic freedom: a juridical approach</i> Speakers: S. Pennicino and human rights students (UniPd) Presentation: docufilm ‘Science in exile’		
02/04	<i>Academic freedom: sociological perspectives</i> Speakers: E. Gallo (UniTn) with A. Vatansever (Humboldt University Berlin, via zoom) Practical: consolidation of acquired knowledge		

Part II – Understanding the context and developing skills for research			
16/04	<i>Understanding the context and tools for research</i> Speaker: G. Acconcia (UniPd) Practical: group activities	14-17	Aula Comune SPGI, via del Santo 28, ground floor
23/04	<i>Contextual dimensions of academic freedom</i> Speaker: expert from the country of the selected case Practical: group activities		
30/04	<i>Research for advocacy</i> Speakers: (tbc) Practical: group activities		
Part III – Advocacy: design, skills and challenges			
15/05	<i>Lobby for advocacy</i> Speaker: C. Graziani (WFP Mozambique)(tbc) Practical: group activities	14-17	Aula B3, Via del Santo 22, ground floor
22/05	<i>Organizing a campaign: tools and communication strategy</i> Speaker: Amnesty International PD (tbc) Practical: group activities		
29/05	<i>General discussion on the advocacy campaign</i> Instructors: C. Padovani and F. Helm with invited respondents		
Part IV – Advocacy initiatives and public events			
04/06	First public presentation of the case and advocacy activities	tbd	Modes and venue to be defined during seminar
October 2020	Public presentation of the case and advocacy activities	tbd	Public event on hosting of refugees and at-risk scholars organized by the University in collaboration with Padova European Capital of voluntary activities
December 2020	Public presentation of the case and advocacy activities	tbd	Winter school Times and Spaces of Globalization, session devoted to 'Knolwedges at Risk'