The Academic Freedom Index

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Research Consortium
Academic Freedom Index (AFi)

- 1,810 country experts around the world
- 110,000 observation points so far (1900-2019)
- V-Dem model: Bayesian item-response theory
- Bridge coders; higher influence of reliable coders
- 2 de jure indicators; 5 de facto indicators
Global Trends in Components of \textit{de facto} Academic Freedom
## Ordinal Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Question and Response Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom to Research and Teach</td>
<td><em>To what extent are scholars free to develop and pursue their own research and teaching agendas without interference?</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>0: Completely restricted</td>
<td>When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are, across all disciplines, consistently subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1: Severely restricted</td>
<td>When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are, in some disciplines, consistently subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</td>
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<td>2: Moderately restricted</td>
<td>When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are occasionally subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</td>
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<td>3: Mostly free</td>
<td>When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are rarely subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4: Fully free</td>
<td>When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are not subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</td>
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Global Levels of Academic Freedom 2019
AFi Status Groups A-E
Improvements and Deteriorations
Institutional Autonomy / Freedom to Research and Teach

Distribution of all country-years (1900-2019, n=10,158) between level of institutional autonomy and level of freedom to research and teach (using raw values from V-Dem model).
AFi Can Help Implement the Bonn Declaration by…

… supporting evidence-based decision-making
… flagging shortcomings, deteriorations, risks
… making improvements visible
… facilitating research on academic freedom

Questions? Feel free to contact me at katrin.kinzelbach@fau.de