

👉 *New York Times*, 26 novembre, article payant

How Universities Cracked Down on Pro-Palestinian Activism

Stricter rules and punishments over campus protests seem to be working. Universities have seen just under 950 protest events this semester, compared to 3,000 in the spring.



Students gathered on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin for a pro-Palestinian protest in October. There have been fewer protests around the country this semester, according to one count. Charlotte Keene/The Daily Texan

Extraits :

Colleges and universities have tightened rules around protests, locked campus gates and handed down stricter punishments after the disruptions of pro-Palestinian demonstrations and encampments last spring.

The efforts seem to be working.

Universities have seen just under 950 protest events this semester so far, compared to 3,000 last semester, according to a log at the Nonviolent Action Lab at Harvard University's Ash Center. About 50 people have been arrested so far this school year at protests on higher education campuses, according to numbers gathered by The New York Times, compared to over 3,000 last semester.

When students have protested this fall, administrators have often enforced — to the letter — new rules created in response to last spring's unrest. The moves have created scenes that would have been hard to imagine previously, particularly at universities that once celebrated their history of student activism.

Harvard temporarily banned dozens of students and faculty members from libraries after they participated in silent "study-ins" — where protesters sit at library tables with signs opposing the war in Gaza — though a similar protest did not lead to discipline in December 2023. At Indiana University Bloomington, some students and faculty members who attended candlelight vigils were referred for discipline under a new prohibition on expressive activity after 11 p.m. University of Pennsylvania administrators and campus police officers holding zip ties told vigil attendees to move because they had not reserved the space in compliance with new rules. (...)

The changes follow federal civil rights complaints, lawsuits and withering congressional scrutiny accusing universities of tolerating antisemitism, after some protesters praised Hamas and called for violence against Israelis.

Some students and faculty have welcomed calmer campuses. Others see the relative quiet as the bitter fruit of a crackdown on pro-Palestinian speech. They worry President-elect Donald J. Trump, who as a candidate [called for universities](#) to “vanquish the radicals,” could ratchet up the pressure.

In many cases, universities are enforcing rules they adopted before the school year began. While the specifics vary, they generally impose limits on where and when protests can occur and what form they can take.

Todd Wolfson, the president of the American Association of University Professors and an associate professor of media studies at Rutgers, said the restrictions have made people afraid.

“They feel like they’re being watched and surveilled,” he said. “I think there’s a strong degree of self-censorship that’s taking place.”

But Jewish students who felt targeted by protesters have praised the rules — and the speed at which universities are enforcing them — for helping to restore order and safety. Naomi Lamb, the director of Hillel at the Ohio State University, said the school’s new protest policies seem to be working well. “I appreciate the response of administrators to ensure that there is as little antisemitic action and rhetoric as possible,” she said. (...)

The new restrictions may not be the only factor behind diminished protest activity this semester. Some protest groups have [embraced more violent rhetoric](#) — praising Hamas’s Oct. 7 attack on Israel, for example — alienating some students who had sympathized with their cause.

Some things have not changed, however: There is still little consensus about what it means for a campus to be safe and when speech critical of Israel crosses the line into antisemitism. (...)

Even as universities crack down, administrators and faculty say the federal government under Mr. Trump could [try to force further changes](#) at institutions.

Still, much remains unclear about what could happen. His pick to lead the Department of Education, Linda McMahon, has [less education experience](#) than is typical of education secretaries in the past and has publicly said little about campus protests.

Abed A. Ayoub, the executive director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said he did not think Mr. Trump could make campuses more hostile to pro-Palestinian protests than they already are.

“Are they going to continue with their crackdown on anti-Israel speech? I think they will,” he said, referring to universities. “That’s not because Trump is in office. They started this. It’s been happening.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/25/us/university-crackdowns-protests-israel-hamas-war.html>

Le Monde, 27 novembre, article payant

« Islamophobie » à Sciences Po Grenoble : la relaxe des étudiants confirmée par la justice administrative

Le recteur de la région académique Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes a été débouté dans cette affaire où dix-sept étudiants étaient poursuivis pour avoir participé à la diffusion d’accusations d’islamophobie visant deux professeurs en mars 2021.



Des étudiants manifestent contre l'islamophobie devant le campus de Sciences Po Grenoble, à Saint-Martin-d'Hères (Isère), le 9 mars 2021. PHILIPPE DESMAZES/AFP

Lire l'article entier ici: <https://kinzler.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/26-novembre-2.pdf>

The Jerusalem Post, 23 novembre, article payant

Over 85,000 Quebec students strike for Gaza, call for intifada and final solution

The protest reportedly took up all 12 floors of the main Concordia building, and "Free Gaza" was spray painted on lockers.

Extraits :

(...) Palestinian Youth Movement's Montreal bracket wrote on Instagram "Glory to our people resisting the Zionist colonial project and genocide. We will not stop until Palestine is fully liberated, from the Jordan river, to the Mediterranean Sea."

On the street outside, hundreds of pro-Palestine protesters sang chants. A masked pro-Palestinian protester was filmed shouting "The final solution is coming your way, the final solution. You know what the final solution is?" at a dozen pro-Israel protesters. (...)

<https://www.instagram.com/hillelmontreal/reel/DCpsnCTO29L/>

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-830278>

Le Figaro, 22 novembre, libre accès

Conférence de Rima Hassan : la justice ordonne à Sciences Po Paris de maintenir l'intervention de la députée sur la Palestine

L'école avait dans un premier temps interdit sa tenue pour risque d'atteinte à l'ordre public. L'eurodéputée a qualifié la nouvelle décision d'«immense victoire».



L'école doit désormais trouver une nouvelle date pour la tenue de la conférence. *LUDOVIC MARIN / AFP*

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/conference-de-rima-hassan-la-justice-ordonne-a-sciences-po-paris-de-maintenir-l-intervention-de-la-deputee-sur-la-palestine-20241122>

Le Monde, 21 novembre, [libre accès](#)

Une conférence de Rima Hassan interdite à l'université de Strasbourg, au lendemain d'une décision similaire de Sciences Po Paris

L'université de Strasbourg a confirmé la décision, annoncée par l'eurodéputée de La France insoumise, en justifiant que la conférence présentait « un risque de trouble à l'ordre public ». Rima Hassan a dit déposer un recours.



Rima Hassan, avocate franco-palestinienne et membre de « La France Insoumise » (LFI), à Aubervilliers, le 25 mai 2024. JULIEN DE ROSA / AFP

https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2024/11/20/une-conference-de-rima-hassan-interdite-a-l-universite-de-strasbourg-au-lendemain-d-une-decision-similaire-de-sciences-po-paris_6405516_823448.html

The Jerusalem Post, opinion, 20 novembre, article payant

Hamas supporters vs advancement of knowledge

The pro-Hamas movement isn't advancing justice or peace. It's reviving the oldest form of prejudice in the newest of guises, undermining the very pursuit of knowledge on which we all depend.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Prof. Shai Davidai at a pro-Israel rally in Manhattan the writer states.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Prof. Shai Davidai at a pro-Israel rally in Manhattan last month. Jewish scholars have long been targets of antisemitism, the writer states.

Extractions

In the grand tradition of suppressing thought – from the [Catholic Church](#)'s trial of Galileo to the Nazi book burnings and [Mao's Cultural Revolution](#) – today's pro-Hamas movement seeks to stifle intellectual freedom under the guise of moral righteousness.

The latest victims? Israeli scholars and researchers, whose work is increasingly sidelined by international colleagues wielding [boycotts](#) as weapons.

This isn't new. Jewish scholars have long been targets of antisemitism. Under the Nazis, Germany purged its intellectuals – scientists, writers, and artists – branding their work as “degenerate.” We know where that led.

Today, Israeli academics are ostracized not for the content of their research but for their affiliation with Israeli institutions. Boycotters claim this makes them complicit in Israel's military actions against Hamas, the terrorist organization responsible for the atrocities of October 7.

The result? Rejected publications, rescinded invitations to conferences, and professional isolation.

Let's be clear: Refusing to publish a paper on cancer treatments or climate innovation because its author is Israeli doesn't save a single life in Gaza. What it does is erode the bedrock principle of academic freedom, hinder global progress, and delay potential breakthroughs that could benefit humanity.

Israel is at war, fighting an enemy ideologically committed to its destruction. But it is not alone in facing armed conflict. According to the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law, 110 armed conflicts are raging across the globe, including 45 in the Middle East and North Africa. Are the academics or scientists of these nations subjected to similar boycotts? The answer is no. This hypocrisy is aimed squarely – and exclusively – at Israel.

And it's taking a toll. A late 2023 survey by The Israel Young Academy and Afik in Academia revealed the growing strain on Israeli faculty. Of the 1,015 respondents – half from natural sciences, medicine, or

engineering – many reported disrupted research, canceled collaborations, and personal harm. Early-career academics and women bore the brunt of the impact, as did those in vulnerable disciplines like the social sciences. (...)

The pro-Hamas movement isn't advancing justice or peace. It's reviving the oldest form of prejudice in the newest of guises, undermining the very pursuit of knowledge on which we all depend.

The writer is the host of The Van Leer Institute Series on Ideas podcast.

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-829882>

The Economist, 19 novembre, article payant

University in America and Britain : Is your master's degree useless?

New data show a shockingly high proportion of courses are a waste of money



PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

Extraits :

IN THE COMING months millions of people across the northern hemisphere will apply to do postgraduate study. Most will top up an undergraduate qualification with a one- or two- year master's degree in the hope that this will set them apart in a job market crowded with [bachelor's degrees](#).

“The number-one reason people get these degrees is insecurity,” reckons Bob Shireman, of The Century Foundation, a left-leaning think tank in New York. “They worry that in order to get a job—or keep their own jobs—they need a master's degree.” Yet on average these provide a much smaller bump to wages than an undergraduate degree does. And a new body of data and analysis suggest that a shockingly high share of master's courses leave graduates worse off.

In America close to 40% of workers with a bachelor's also boast a postgraduate credential of some sort. In the decade to 2021 the number of postgraduate students there increased by 9% even as the number of undergraduates fell by 15%. PhDs required by academics and long professional degrees of the sort needed by doctors and lawyers are becoming more popular. But master's courses still account for most of the growth. (...)

In part this has been driven by employers demanding higher qualifications as jobs in science and technology, in particular, grow more complex. But universities are also keen. In Britain, undergraduate fees are capped by the government and have barely increased in a decade. Enrolling more postgraduates—who may be charged whatever the market will bear—is one way to cope. America’s university-aged population will soon start declining. College presidents there hope that repeat customers can keep their institutions afloat.

Since 2000 the cost of postgraduate study in America has more than tripled in real terms, according to the Centre on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University. The median borrower now acquires around \$50,000 in debt while completing their second degree, up from \$34,000 20 years earlier (in 2022 dollars). Almost half of the money America’s government lends to students goes to postgraduates, even though they are only about 17% of learners. In Britain domestic master’s students paid about £9,500 (\$13,000) a year in 2021, some 60% higher than in 2011 after accounting for inflation. (...)

Students have put up with these fees in part because they assume that lofty credentials will usually increase their earnings. “Gaining a financial return is not the only reason to pursue education,” acknowledges Beth Akers of the American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think-tank. But “for the vast majority of students...that is the ambition.” At first glance they are making a reasonable bet. In America, full-time workers with a bachelor’s earn about 70% more than high school graduates. And those who tack on a master’s can expect an additional 18%.

Yet earnings vary enormously by subject and institution. Moreover, postgraduates are usually from richer families and got better grades as undergraduates than did their peers. They would usually do well in life, regardless of additional credentials. (...)

Seen through that lens, the average master’s student will bank no more than \$50,000 extra over their lifetime as a result of their qualification, reckons Preston Cooper, an analyst formerly of FREOPP, a think-tank in Austin, Texas, who also considered fees paid and potential earnings forgone while studying. Worse still, students enrolled on about 40% of America’s master’s courses will either make no extra money or incur a financial loss. That is a higher risk than for undergraduate courses, which Mr Cooper believes provide positive returns about 75% of the time. (...)

A related debate is whether governments ought to be more picky about what postgraduate courses they fund. In America credit is offered as freely to people studying “underwater basket-weaving” as to those who study law, says Dr Akers. In 2026 profit-making universities could be prevented from enrolling students who borrow federal money in courses that have saddled graduates with unmanageable debt, or which have not boosted their incomes. But the new rules will not be applied to public and non-profit universities, which enroll most students. These institutions will instead simply have to warn applicants about courses with poor returns.

Americans from both the right and left of politics agree that graduate education is “a bit out of control”, says Mr Shireman. That could make it easier to make changes to, say, the postgraduate loan system. But it remains to be seen how the incoming administration will choose to handle these issues, says Dr Akers. The worry, she says, is that Donald Trump’s team might “focus more on publicly shaming institutions that are bastions of progressivism, than on thoughtful reform”. ■

<https://www.economist.com/international/2024/11/18/is-your-masters-degree-useless>

Décideurs Magazine, édité par Lucas Jakubowicz, 12 novembre, [libre accès](#)

Sciences Po Paris, les recruteurs s’alarment

Le 27 rue Saint-Guillaume fait la une de l’actualité, pas toujours pour les meilleures raisons. Mais que pensent les recruteurs de cette situation ? Le diplôme de l’école ayant pour objectif de former l’élite de la République se dévalorise-t-il dans le secteur privé ? Les témoignages récoltés devraient interpeller la direction...



Extraits :

Temple de l'excellence ouvert à l'international et à tous les milieux sociaux pour les uns, école minée par les problèmes de gouvernance, le "wokisme" et l'ultragauche pour les autres. Il suffit de prononcer les mots "Sciences Po Paris" pour récolter des opinions tranchées, parfois décorrélées de la réalité. Mais que vaut vraiment le diplôme de cette grande école ?

Pour répondre à la question, Décideurs Magazine a interrogé six recruteurs dans divers secteurs embauchant souvent des élèves de Sciences Po Paris. S'exprimant en off, l'anonymat leur a été garanti. Point important, l'appel à témoins lancé dans le cadre de la rédaction de cet article était ouvert à tous les points de vue. "*Vous pensez que l'établissement forme toujours l'élite ? Vous avez noté une baisse globale de niveau ? Vous avez arrêté de recruter dans cette école pour des raisons diverses et variées ?*", demandait un message publié sur LinkedIn et X. Voici les réponses qui devraient intéresser la direction de l'école, les employeurs et les diplômés. (...)

Évidemment, impossible de parler de Sciences Po sans mettre sur la table [la question des manifestations pro-Palestine](#) des derniers mois. Les slogans "From the river to the sea", [le malaise des étudiants juifs](#), les manifestants en keffieh, les mains peinturlurées de rouge ont été médiatisés. Que ce soit pour condamner ou soutenir les manifestants, la classe politique a fait de l'entrée du 27 rue Saint-Guillaume "the place to be".

Quel est l'impact sur les employeurs ? "*Je pense que ce qui se passe risque d'abîmer l'image de l'école auprès de nombreuses entreprises, mais pour le moment c'est de la supputation, personne n'a de chiffres pour l'affirmer*", glisse Herschel. Sur LinkedIn ou X, certains invitent à blacklister les profils Sciences Po. "*Cela fait le buzz mais ne se ressent pas sur le marché de l'emploi*", analyse Françoise qui constate qu'aucun client ne demande d'écartier les élèves de Sciences Po Paris.

Si effet 7 octobre il y a, les conséquences ne sont pas actuellement mesurables. Reste un fait : les recruteurs sont plutôt pessimistes sur le devenir de Sciences Po et s'attendent au pire si aucune réforme de fond n'est engagée. Les étudiants qui ont intégré l'école sans passer le concours écrit traditionnel et les promos "[Gaza](#)" ne sont pas encore confrontés aux fourches caudines des entretiens d'embauche. Seront-ils à la hauteur ? Impossible de le prévoir.

En revanche, le fait de pénaliser les grands lycées parisiens dans les procédures d'admission, de s'en prendre aux supposés "*sionistes*", "*fachos*", "*droitards*", "*réacs*", génère une ambiance malsaine qui peut repousser de

nombreux candidats et contribuer à uniformiser davantage une école qui faisait de sa diversité une richesse. Détail important : aucun professionnel interrogé n'inciterait ses enfants à intégrer les différents campus de l'école. "Avec mon nom de famille hébraïque, je ne postulerais plus", affirme même Raphaëlle. Visiblement, l'état-major de la rue Saint-Guillaume est conscient du problème. Son nouveau directeur Luis Vassy souhaite rétablir le concours écrit traditionnel et favoriser le pluralisme. Efficace ? Réponse dans quelques années.

<https://www.decideurs-magazine.com/politique-societe/59735-sciences-po-paris-les-recruteurs-s-alarment.html>

Education : The Elite College Students Who Can't Read Books

To read a book in college, it helps to have read a book in high school. (The Atlantic, 24 octobre, article payant)

Extraits :

Nicholas Dames has taught Literature Humanities, Columbia University's required great-books course, since 1998. He loves the job, but it has changed. Over the past decade, students have become overwhelmed by the reading. College kids have never read everything they're assigned, of course, but this feels different. Dames's students now seem bewildered by the thought of finishing multiple books a semester. His colleagues have noticed the same problem. Many students no longer arrive at college—even at highly selective, elite colleges—prepared to read books.

This development puzzled Dames until one day during the fall 2022 semester, when a first-year student came to his office hours to share how challenging she had found the early assignments. Lit Hum often requires students to read a book, sometimes a very long and dense one, in just a week or two. But the student told Dames that, at her public high school, she had never been required to read an entire book. She had been assigned excerpts, poetry, and news articles, but not a single book cover to cover.

"My jaw dropped," Dames told me. The anecdote helped explain the change he was seeing in his students: It's not that they don't want to do the reading. It's that they don't know how. Middle and high schools [have stopped asking them to](#). (...)

And yet, "I think there is a phenomenon that we're noticing that I'm also hesitant to ignore." Twenty years ago, Dames's classes had no problem engaging in sophisticated discussions of [Pride and Prejudice](#) one week and [Crime and Punishment](#) the next. Now his students tell him up front that the reading load feels impossible. It's not just the frenetic pace; they struggle to attend to small details while keeping track of the overall plot. (...)

[The Elite College Students Who Can't Read Books - The Atlantic](#)

«Il faudrait 50 % de femmes dans les écoles d'ingénieurs»

Tous les ans, la conférence de rentrée de la CDEFI (Conférence des directeurs des écoles françaises d'ingénieurs) permet de faire le point sur les effectifs et le profil des élèves ingénieurs. (Le Figaro, 22 octobre, libre accès)

Extraits :

[Emmanuel Duflos](#), président de la CDEFI (Conférence des écoles françaises d'ingénieurs) s'est félicité de l'augmentation du nombre d'ingénieurs en formation à l'occasion de la conférence de presse annuelle le 7 octobre dernier. Les effectifs inscrits en cycle ingénieur ont en effet augmenté de 1,6% en 2022 par rapport à 2021— tout en ajoutant immédiatement qu'il faudrait 15 000 ingénieurs supplémentaires. Un [chiffre en hausse de 50% par rapport à celui que la Conférence avait indiqué l'an dernier](#). «Et encore, d'autres organismes, comme l'Institut Montaigne, estiment qu'il faut 20 000 ingénieurs en plus chaque année pour faire face aux besoins du pays», ajoute Emmanuel Duflos, qui dirige aussi l'[EFF](#), une école d'ingénieurs dont le campus principal est à Cachan (Val de Marne).

(...) «Notre objectif est que le taux de féminisation atteigne les 50%».

La féminisation reste stable depuis plusieurs années, (32% cette année, toutes formations confondues) mais, dans certaines spécialisations comme le numérique, le taux ne dépasse pas les 17%. Une lecture attentive du “Panorama des écoles 2024” distribué lors de la conférence révèle que l’importance de la féminisation dépend très fortement du domaine de formation concerné. Ainsi, les femmes représentent seulement 16,6% des inscrits en cycle ingénieur dans le domaine des services de transport, et 19,9 dans celui de l’électricité. Mais ces pourcentages montent à 50,5% pour le domaine de la physique, des mathématiques et des statistiques, à 58,6% pour le domaine de l’agriculture et de l’agroalimentaire, et à 63,5% pour celui de la chimie et des sciences de la vie.

[«Il faudrait 50 % de femmes dans les écoles d’ingénieurs»](#)

America’s Brilliant Madhouse

U.S. universities still produce Nobel-worthy research. ? (WSJ, opinion, 17 octobre, article payant)

Extraits :

The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences goes to three immigrants to Americans, one from Turkey and two from the U.K., all with the fingerprints of U.S. higher education on the medals (“[A Nobel Prize in Economics for the ‘Inclusive’ Free Market](#)” by David Henderson, op-ed, Oct. 15). Are we too dense to notice the triumph of research coming from our campuses? We do many stupid things: in college sports, the hunt for endowed dollars, managing and administering, but this madhouse on U.S. campuses remains the envy of the world—except in its own country.

Em. Prof. Sol Gittleman, Tufts University

[America’s Brilliant Madhouse - WSJ](#)

ESCP Business School va se transformer en profondeur grâce à OpenAI

L’école de commerce ESCP va utiliser la plateforme de la société américaine pour adapter ses méthodes d’enseignement et ses processus administratifs. (Le Figaro, 14 octobre, libre accès)

Extraits :

Dans son rapport publié en mars, [la Commission de l’intelligence artificielle](#) recommandait de «*généraliser (son) déploiement dans toutes les formations du supérieur*». Certains établissements vont plus vite que d’autres. Ainsi, l’ESCP Business School, une des écoles de commerce européennes les plus réputées, a conclu un large partenariat avec la société OpenAI. Une partie des étudiants, des enseignants-chercheurs et des cadres administratifs du réseau ESCP seront formés à OpenAI edu, la version spécialisée de sa plateforme d’IA pour les universités. «*Le premier avantage pour nous est d’avoir une amélioration continue de l’expérience étudiante*», résume Léon Laulusa, le directeur général de ESCP. Grâce à ces technologies, l’école veut renforcer l’apprentissage personnalisé et interactif pour ses étudiants. «*Je pense que ces technologies vont permettre de favoriser l’apprentissage ancré, celui qui ne s’oublie pas avec le temps*» insiste-t-il. L’école a créé des assistants conversationnels pour répondre aux questions des étudiants dans divers domaines, créer des tests de connaissances personnalisés pour s’entraîner, trouver des conseils pour la rédaction de thèse. «*Nous nous greffons sur les données ouvertes de ChatGPT et nous les fermons sur nos données*», ajoute le directeur, soucieux de la sécurité des données. Les étudiants pourront aussi recevoir des commentaires personnalisés sur leurs travaux en temps réel. (...)

En travaillant au quotidien avec ces technologies, l’école compte aussi adapter au mieux ses programmes et les cursus aux compétences attendues en entreprise. «*Il y a un enjeu majeur de massification de la formation à l’IA en France, mais il faut aussi voir comment développer des compétences durables dans le temps. Nous voulons veiller à ce que les programmes de l’ESCP restent à la pointe de la technologie et pertinents dans un monde des affaires en évolution rapide*», insiste le directeur. (...)

Campus Protesters Hijack Academic Freedom

John Witherspoon knew campuses were meant for the pursuit of truth, not political activism. (WSJ, opinion, 14 octobre, article payant)

Extraits :

The Scottish cleric and philosopher John Witherspoon arrived in New Jersey in 1768 to assume the presidency of the future Princeton University. He educated dozens of men who became the American founders. These alumni include James Madison, 21 future U.S. senators and three Supreme Court justices. They declared independence, fought a revolution and framed a Constitution.

Yet the founders' education addressed the enduring questions of the human condition, not the boiling events of the day. Consequently, their political work was informed by a deep historical, political and moral sensibility. Witherspoon's influential "Lectures on Moral Philosophy and Eloquence" mention Cicero and John Locke but not George III or George Washington.

That helps illustrate a fundamental problem plaguing campuses, which have suffered more than a year of anti-Israel unrest. Almost everyone assumes campuses have a unique role to play in debating current events. Consequently, most disputes about unrest on campus pertain to how colleges address current controversies, regardless of whether those controversies have anything to do with higher education's actual purpose.

That purpose is teaching and learning in pursuit of truth. This justifies an enhanced privilege of academic freedom, including broader protections for expression than are provided in most realms of society. Academic freedom should guide campus policies. But these policies should also recognize this enhanced privilege comes with special responsibilities.

Instead, campus activists treat this privilege as a special entitlement to say or do anything in pursuit of political goals, free from consequences. But the purpose of scholarship is different from that of political demonstrations. The latter aren't about the pursuit of truth. They reduce complicated issues to slogans and assume demonstrators already know the truth. They have played a vital role in American history, but that role isn't the role of colleges.

Campus policies should err on the side of encouraging more conversation, not less. But campus protesters aren't entitled to such enhanced privileges of freedom unless they are engaged in the activity for which it exists: the pursuit of truth. (...)

Current events may be one appropriate topic of conversation on campus. But so are laboratory results, novels, social science and Platonic dialogues. Academic conversations are useful precisely because, unlike the transience of current events, they endure. A well-taught course on the history of the Israel-Palestinian conflict may shed light on Hamas's atrocities. But it won't help as much as engagement with longer-lasting subjects, from millennia of reflections on just-war theory to the great literary canon dealing with armed conflict.

Witherspoon's students agitated for American independence. So did Witherspoon himself. But that wasn't the purpose of the classroom. Instead it was the enduring nature of their education that prepared them to build a republic. Universities hoping to reclaim trust must do more than simply make political activism evenhanded. They must reclaim the pursuit of truth that alone justifies university education.

Mr. Weiner is president of Assumption University.

[Campus Protesters Hijack Academic Freedom - WSJ](#)

Painful lessons : Britain should let university tuition fees rise

Domestic students have been paying less in real terms every year (The Economist, 20 septembre, article payant)

Extraits :

In 2012 politicians in Britain burned lots of political capital by raising the cap on how much English universities can charge domestic undergraduates in tuition fees. Sir Nick Clegg, the deputy prime minister at the time, had previously pledged not to raise fees and never lived down the U-turn. This political folk memory helps explain why the Labour Party, which took power in July and has campaigned in the past to abolish tuition fees, will find it difficult to raise the cap again. That is nonetheless what it should do.

The financial strains on British universities are becoming hard to ignore. In the academic year just gone 40% of British universities ran deficits. The number is probably higher now. How to handle a failing university is no longer an academic question. The effect of tighter immigration rules on numbers of foreign students, who pay higher fees than native ones, is one reason why the universities are under pressure. But the sinking value of tuition fees is another. The cap of £9,000 (\$11,880) that was put in place 12 years ago has been raised only once since then, and by a tiny amount, to £9,250. Inflation has eaten away at its value: it is now worth less than £6,500 in 2012 money.

Some argue that charging for higher education is wrong, and England should go back to the old days of free tuition, courtesy of the taxpayer. In fact, England's student-finance regime offers a lot to like. Britons with degrees earn 35% more than their peers who stop studying after secondary school. Given these high private returns, it is fair that they should pay a big chunk of the cost of their education. Student-loan repayments do not end in bankruptcy: graduates in England start paying only when their annual income exceeds a threshold (currently £25,000 for this year's borrowers). The previous jump in tuition fees has not put off poorer students; and most graduates in a recent poll said their debts had not had a "negative impact" on their lives.

Every way of funding degrees has its flaws. (...)

Universities say that if fees had tracked inflation, the cap would now be more than £12,000. A sudden increase on that scale would be unwise. The reforms of 2012 provided universities with a very large bump in income, some of which they wasted. The cap was set at a high level in the vain expectation that some institutions might choose to charge less. But neither students nor the country are well served by allowing the real value of fees to fall for ever. Labour should let them rise. ■

[Britain should let university tuition fees rise \(economist.com\)](http://economist.com)

«Comme d'habitude, c'est l'opacité totale»: à Sciences Po, un poste de directeur à haut risque dans un contexte sensible (Le Figaro, 25 juin, article payant)

Alors que la «short list» sera arrêtée le 1er juillet, une dizaine de noms circulent. Mais l'école, coutumière des crises de succession, récemment occupée par des militants propalestiniens, fait moins rêver. Surtout à l'approche des législatives

Extraits :

(...) c'est la garden-party des anciens qui, le 14 juin, a été secouée par l'irruption d'une quinzaine de militants propalestiniens. Ils ont accueilli, à l'extérieur, les 600 invités au milieu d'une flaque de peinture rouge, sous des slogans déclamés en arabe.

À l'intérieur, masqués et portant le keffieh, ils ont demandé une minute de silence pour la Palestine. « Je n'ai pas pu faire mon discours, rapporte le politologue Pascal Perrineau, président de l'association des alumni de Sciences Po. Beaucoup de chefs d'entreprise étaient présents, de futurs recruteurs ! Je vois mal mes alumni mettre encore un euro dans leur ancienne école », dit-il dépité. Dans le même temps, le milliardaire américain Frank McCourt, qui s'était engagé en 2021 dans un partenariat dédié à la recherche pour 25 millions de dollars

sur dix ans, a décidé de suspendre son financement, selon une information de Politico, confirmée par Sciences Po.

Dans ce contexte, l'élection législative des 30 juin et 7 juillet, et son résultat incertain, mais annonciateur d'une nouvelle donne, rendent le poste de patron de Sciences Po Paris encore plus acrobatique. (...)

« Mais aujourd'hui, on ne connaît pas les critères précis pour écarter ou retenir les candidats qui seront auditionnés. Comme d'habitude, c'est l'opacité totale, confie un habitué de la maison. Et l'on sait bien que tout ça va encore se décider sur un coin de bureau à l'Élysée... » (...)

[«Comme d'habitude, c'est l'opacité totale»: à Sciences Po, un poste de directeur à haut risque dans un contexte sensible \(lefigaro.fr\)](#)

“Disaffection with the sciences, unattractive salaries... who still wants to be an engineer?” (June 8)

Free access : Désaffection pour les sciences, salaires peu attractifs... qui veut encore être ingénieur ? À l'approche des résultats aux concours d'entrée aux grandes écoles, Valérie Riolland, conseillère départementale Les Républicains et professeure en lycée, alerte sur la pénurie d'ingénieurs et appelle à «une réforme en profondeur de notre système éducatif et industriel» (Le Figaro, Guest Essay)

Excerpt:

Soyons clairs : les écoles d'ingénieurs peinent à attirer suffisamment de talents, notamment à cause de la désaffection pour les matières scientifiques au lycée, exacerbée par la réforme du bac en 2019.

Tant et si bien que les élèves qui sortent du bac avec une mention très bien subissent un «choc» à leur arrivée en prépa, et se «prennent des taules», passant de seize à quatre de moyenne. Quand ce n'est pas tout simplement zéro. Les professeurs de prépa sont excédés par le niveau des élèves qui intègrent, qui n'est pas du tout à la hauteur des attentes des grandes écoles d'ingénieurs, dont les concours sont encore - heureusement - perçus comme très durs.

Pire encore : les diplômés des écoles prestigieuses comme Centrale Supélec, donc, ingénieurs, se tournent pourtant de plus en plus vers des carrières dans la finance, le conseil et l'informatique, attirés par des salaires plus élevés et des opportunités internationales plus attrayantes, notamment grâce au prestige des grandes écoles d'ingénieurs françaises ! Par exemple, entre dix et 20% des centraliens rejoignent des cabinets de conseil, et beaucoup optent pour des secteurs comme la finance et l'assurance, laissant le secteur industriel en manque cruel de tête bien remplies.

L'équation est simple : En France, un ingénieur gagne en moyenne 47.663 euros par an, tandis qu'un consultant junior chez McKinsey peut espérer toucher entre 100.000 et 150.000 dollars par an ! Un job de manager se négocie à plus de 400.000 dollars. À ces conditions, à quoi bon devenir ingénieur ?

[Désaffection pour les sciences, salaires peu attractifs... qui veut encore être ingénieur ? \(lefigaro.fr\)](#)

“Western higher education institutions begin to suspend relations with their Hebrew State counterparts” (June 4)

Pay wall : En Israël, la menace montante du boycott des universités : Des établissements d'enseignement supérieur occidentaux commencent à suspendre leurs relations avec leurs homologues de l'Etat hébreu, au motif qu'ils contribuent au système d'occupation et de colonisation de la Palestine (Le Monde)

[En Israël, la menace montante du boycott des universités \(lemonde.fr\)](#)