

INTERNATIONALISATION OF HE IN THE TIME OF ANTILIBERALISM

INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
MULTILINGUALISM AND TRANSLATION

Andrea Peto, Professor, CEU, Vienna

Why me? (first sight: failure story)

- 2 Year MA program in Gender Studies deleted from accredited study list
- LexCEU: moving a university from EU member country to another
- Resignation Hungarian Accreditation Committee
- Resignation from Sabanci University International Advisory Board, Gender Studies



New approach to internationalism

Original Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 23 January 2024

Rewarding mobility? Towards a realistic European policy agenda for academics at risk

[Dina Gusejnova](#) , [Alina Dragolea](#), [Andrea Pető](#), [Andrei-Vlăduț Terteleac](#), [Artemis Photiadou](#) & [Rebeka Bakos](#)

Comparative Migration Studies 12, Article number: 4 (2024) | [View Article](#)

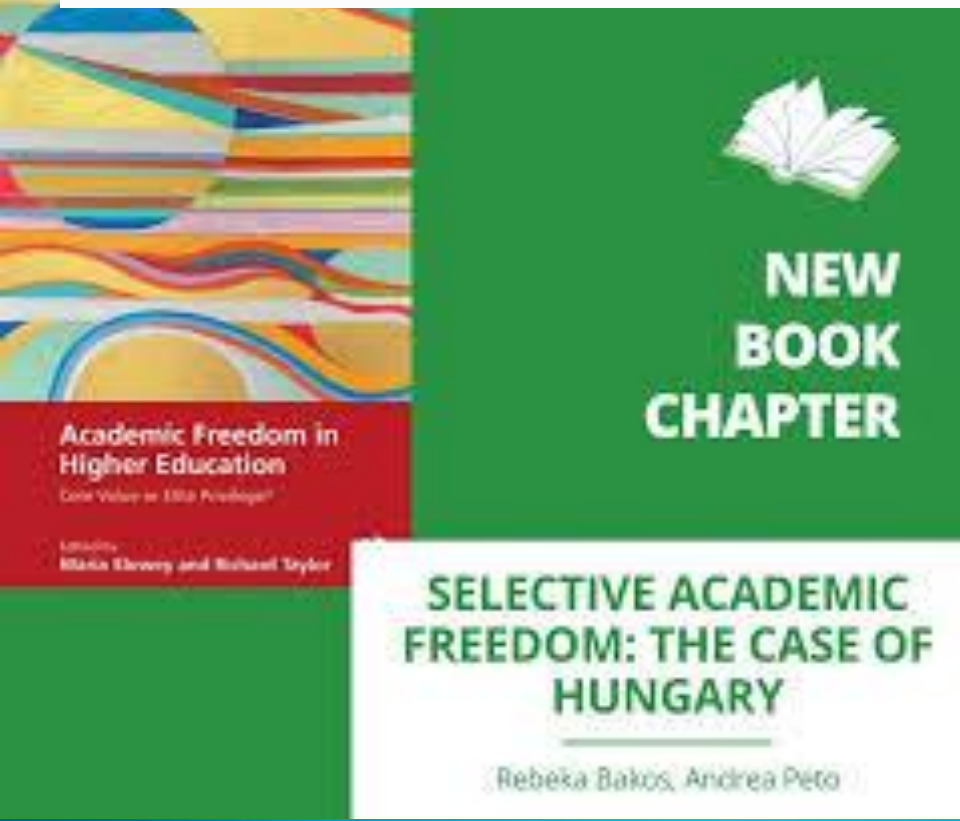
Berichte zur WISSENSCHAFTS-GESCHICHTE  History of SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Beitrag | [Open Access](#) | 

Current Comment: The Illiberal Academic Authority. An Oxymoron?

Andrea Pető 

First published: 23 November 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/bewi.202100013> | Citations: 7





frontiers

Webinar

Powering academic freedom - Essential insights for policy makers

28 May 2024 | 10:00-11:00 CEST

-  Prof. Dr. Robert Jan Smits
Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
-  Prof. Peter Maassen
Faculty of Education, University of Oslo (UiO), Norway
-  Prof. Dr. Antoine Petit
The French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France
-  Prof. Dr. Andrea Pető
Central European University (CEU), Austria; CEU Democracy Institute, Hungary
-  Marcus Scheuren
European Parliamentary Research Service, EU

Hungary as a laboratory of illiberal HE for policy transfer

Weaponizing students and international cooperation, manipulating international rankings, exploiting financial vulnerabilities, and corrupting quality assurance mechanisms, together with the simultaneous construction of parallel, illiberal structures of knowledge production, constitute a comprehensive, global strategy for authoritarian control.

Structure

1. The Hungarian model
2. Why does higher education matter for the illiberal playbook?
3. Why is higher education so vulnerable to illiberal attacks?
4. The Double Strategy of Illiberal Transformation: Destroy and Build
5. Coopting the language of neoliberal commodification for illiberal takeover
6. The Illiberal Hijacking of Academic Authorisation
7. Remasculinisation of science and higher education
8. Buying a Place in the International Ranking
9. Students as a security risk
10. From Global to National Science
11. Gender Studies as the Canary in the Coal Mine
12. The Broader Implications

Hungary as a laboratory of illiberal HE

Weaponizing students and international cooperation, manipulating international rankings, exploiting financial vulnerabilities, and corrupting quality assurance mechanisms, together with simultaneously constructing parallel, illiberal structures of knowledge production, constitute a comprehensive, global strategy for authoritarian control.

Illiberal Playbook in HE

Co-opting and hijacking the language of neoliberal managerialism,

- weaponizing students and international cooperation,
- harassing and delegitimising faculty and academic fields,
- manipulating international rankings,
- remasculinisation of intellectual work
- exploiting and creating financial vulnerabilities, and
- corrupting quality assurance mechanisms, together with the simultaneous construction of parallel,
- illiberal structures of knowledge production

constitute a comprehensive, global strategy for authoritarian control.

Get prepared for what is coming: learn how to practice academic freedom

Pocket guide

How to recognise the attack, what are the warning signs, types of attack, whom to reach out to, and how, and survival strategies.

English, German, French version

Resilience training of 8 modules

Looking for accreditation as an adult education module after a try-out in Vienna and Tirana for faculty and staff.

POCKET GUIDE FOR ACADEMICS
UNDER ATTACK



Anita Lunik, Andrea Petó, Benoit Jossier



This pocket guide is developed with the support of COST Actions Rising nationalism, shifting geopolitics, and the future of European higher education/research openness (OPEN) and Democratisation at stake? Comparing Anti-Gender Policies in CEE and VLM countries (Antigender Policy)

Vienna, February 2024



Counter strategies-institutional level from the pocket guide

- Students, faculty and staff should be allies
- Strengthen local ties. Rootedness and outreach: explain why universities matter
- Use your academic authorization to impress and build trust
- Use existing laws for the purpose and the threat of PR disasters
- Look for non-state funding
- Emotions and appreciation matter
- Organise and network among allies
- Read and observe your enemies
- Forget orthodoxies: such as for example internationalisation and mobility are good
- Get ready for conflicts, be active and not reactive

What can be done when nothing can be done?

“No Longer the Alexanders, the Napoleons, or the Attilas”: Gender, Illiberalism, and Quiet Resistance, 25 June 2025, <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/no-longer-the-alexanders-the-napoleons-or-the-attilas-gender-illiberalism-and-quiet-resistance/>

[To survive illiberalism's attacks on HE, we must resist](#), University World News 29 April 2023

[What is to be done when nothing is to be done?](#) *Eurozine* 10 October 2023

[It is time to defend ordinary scholars, not poach talent.](#) *UWN* 23 April 2025, together with Rebecka Lettevall and Annika Olsson

"[What makes you hopeful for gender studies in Hungary](#), in the world?" *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*, vol. 52 no. 1, 2024, pp. 37-47.

“Better stories” in higher education. Cunning strategies for gender studies: What can you do when nothing can be done? Can the hangman be an ally of gender studies? *Baltic Worlds*. 2023. 1-2. 84-90. https://balticworlds.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BW-2023.1_enkelsidor.pdf

Imagining a New Gender Contract for Education in *A New Gender Equality Contract for Europe. Feminism and Progressive Politics*, eds. Andrea Petö, Laetitia Thissen, Amandine Clavaud, Palgrave Macmillan 2024.