

Excellence Lab
Bavaria Africa
Academic Freedom

4 June 2024



Bavarian
Research Alliance

Welcome to the Excellence Lab:

Academic Freedom. Perspectives on African-European dynamics in international research projects

Scientific Coordination Office Bavaria-Africa

Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) & Pan-African Institute of Research and Innovation“ (PIRI)



Bavarian
Research and
Innovation Agency



Agenda



1. Welcome & Introduction

- Pan-African Institute of Research and Innovation, (PIRI)
- Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) & Scientific Coordination Office Bavaria-Africa

2. Keynote “What can we learn from the Academic Freedom Index?”

Dr. Lars Lott (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg)

3. Roundtable & Discussion

- Dominic Liche, Philosophy and Applied Ethics, University of Zambia
- Dr O’Brien Kaaba, School of Law, University of Zambia
- Prof. Dr Gesine L. Schiewer, Intercultural German Studies, University of Bayreuth

4. Wrap-up and Closing



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Pan-African Institute of Research and Innovation (PIRI)

Speaker: Simson Mwale

Pan-African Institute of Research and Innovation

WHO ARE WE?

- Officially registered in Zambia, with plans to establish regional coordinating offices in Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe
- We are a multidisciplinary network of researchers who specialize in research ethics and integrity, environment and energy transition, as well as governance, peace, and security.
- We welcome academics, industry professionals, and institutions who are interested in joining our Pan-African research network.
- At the moment, our scientific committees includes researchers from Ghana, Kenya, South Sudan, and Zambia.

WHO CAN JOIN?

- Researchers and academics from legally recognized research, academic and professional institutions
- Pracademics and practitioners with good standing in society
- Accredited by an appropriate regulatory body, in case of an institution
- Members are associated with specialized scientific committees
- Please, feel free to contact us to become a part of our research community.

Pan-African Institute of Research and Innovation

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

- PIRI aims:
- to promote and facilitate *genuine international collaborative research*
- to establish platforms to enhance *fairness, equity and diversity of OPPORTUNITY*, before the research is initiated; during the **RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROCESS**, and in the *SHARING OF BENEFITS, COSTS AND OUTCOMES*, after the research has been completed

WHAT WE DO?

- *Excellence Labs*: springboards for identification of collaborative research projects among researchers in Africa and other continents
- *Research Ethics and Integrity Labs*: to foster good research practices and a positive research culture, especially among participating researchers and institutions
- *Peace Labs*: aimed at forming young peacemakers from different countries around the world, by offering them with a platform to most effectively contribute to a peaceful world through their personal experiences & projects

Who works at PIRI Secretariat?



Simson Mwale

Founder



**Muteteshe Marie Aimee
(PhD)**

Manager



Angela Ngulube

Administrator



Dr. O'Brien Kaaba

Legal Advisor



Pan-African Institute of
Research and Innovation



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Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR)

Speaker: Anna Stegmann

Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) Associates and Contributors



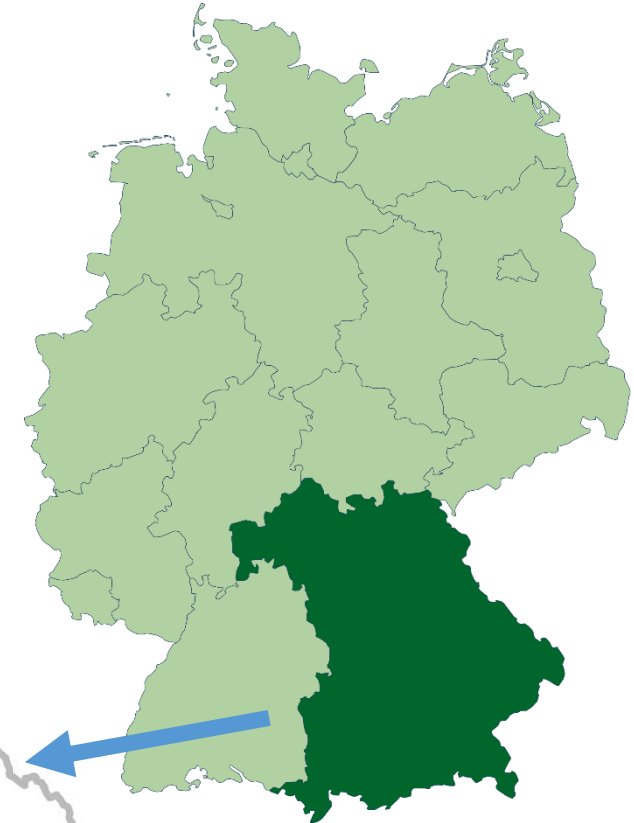
12 universities



20 universities of applied sciences



Bavarian State Ministry of Science and
the Arts and the Bavarian State
Chancellery



Source:
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Deutschl_and_Lage_von_Bayern.svg

Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR)

Full Service Provider

Project management

- Administrative project management for EU projects
- Workshops/trainings for project participants and third-party staff
- Advice on questions related to EU project management
- Public relations for EU projects

Project implementation

- Support for grant agreement preparation
- Assistance with financial and organisational issues



Information

- Information on current and future EU calls for proposals and on how to write a successful application
- Lobbying activities – strategic positioning of ideas

Advisory services

- General and call-specific expert advice on EU funding schemes
- Assistance in assigning project ideas to the appropriate funding scheme

EU application support

- Active support for the entire application process
- Preparation of call-specific information material
- Assistance in the search for cooperation partners (European / international)

Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR)

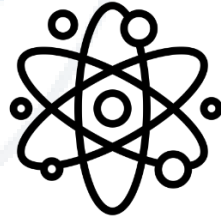
BayFOR Units



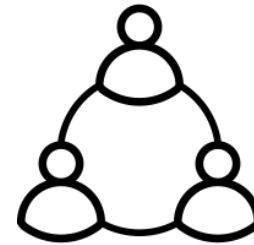
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Health Research
& Biotechnology



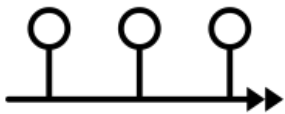
ICT, Engineering
& Natural Sciences



Social Sciences
& Security



Environment, Energy
& Bioeconomy



Project Management



SME Advisory Service



Scientific Coordination
Office



EU Liaison Office
in Brussels



Who is working in the Scientific Coordination Office?



**M.Sc. Melanie
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**Dr. phil. Sabrina
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Kerstin Pecher

Student Assistant
pecher@bayfor.org



From which country are you joining today's event?





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Keynote “What can we learn from the Academic Freedom Index?”


Dr. Lars Lott

Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg



Academic Freedom Index

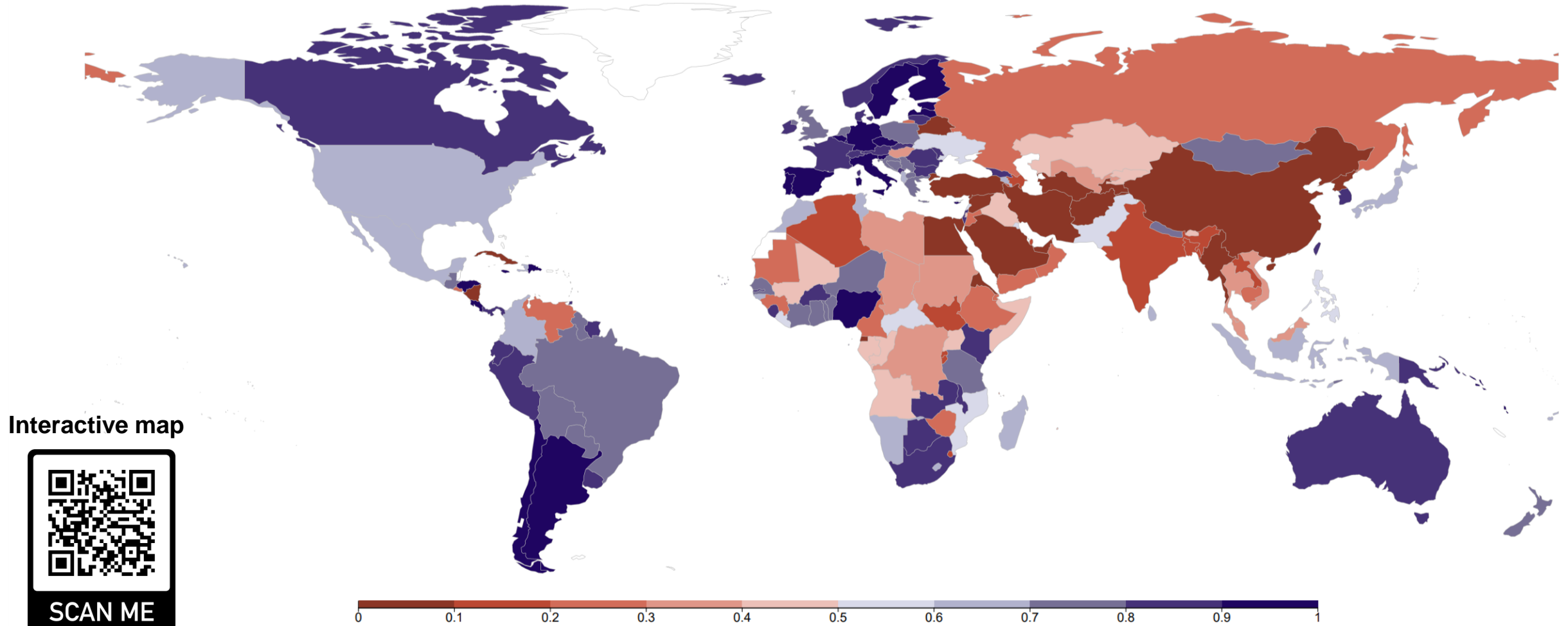
What can we learn from the Academic Freedom Index?”

 [ACTIVATE MAP](#)

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Academic Freedom Index in 2023

between 0 = almost non academic freedom and 1 = almost full academic freedom





Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Institut für Politische Wissenschaft



Funded by:



Academic Freedom Index = 5 dimensions

- Freedom to research and teach
- Freedom of academic exchange and dissemination
- Institutional autonomy
- Campus integrity
- Freedom of academic and cultural expression

= definition of academic freedom based on international law definitions, no indicators on students rights or funding situation of universities

Country experts and statistical model

- 180 countries, 1900-2023
- 2,329 experts with different knowledge and expertise
- More than 1 Mio. observations
- Statistical model (Bayesian Item-Response-Theory Modell) simulates point estimates and uncertainty intervals
- We strongly recommend that users take this uncertainty into account when comparing scores between countries and over time
- **Transparency:** codebook, all data open access, number of coders, confidence interval

Example: Freedom to research and teach

Question and specification

| Indicator | Question and Response Levels |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Freedom to Research and Teach | <p><i>To what extent are scholars free to develop and pursue their own research and teaching agendas without interference?</i></p> <p>0: Completely restricted. When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are, across all disciplines, consistently subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</p> <p>1: Severely restricted. When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are, in some disciplines, consistently subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</p> <p>2: Moderately restricted. When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are occasionally subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</p> <p>3: Mostly free. When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are rarely subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</p> <p>4: Fully free. When determining their research agenda or teaching curricula, scholars are not subject to interference or incentivized to self-censor.</p> |

Question assesses state and non-state infringements

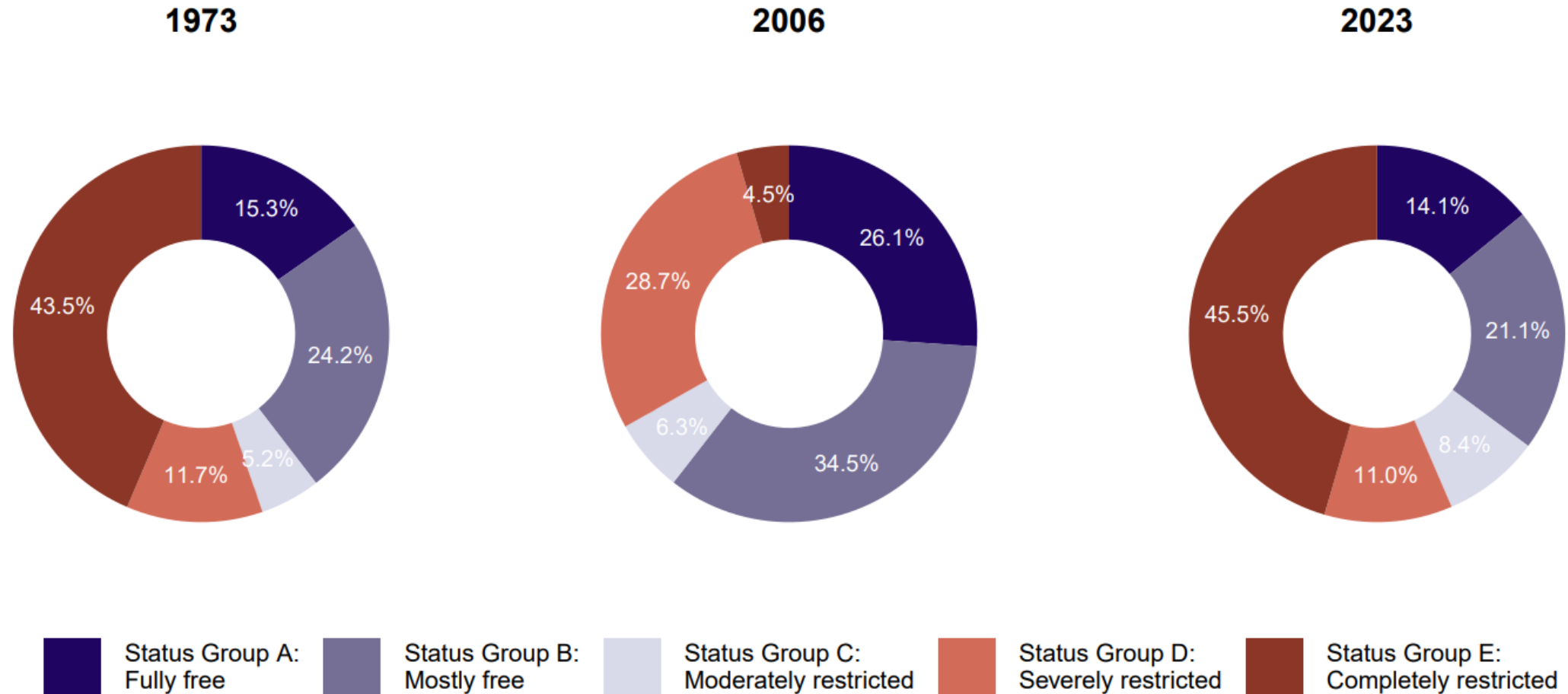
Worldwide developments

Academic Freedom Index
Update 2024

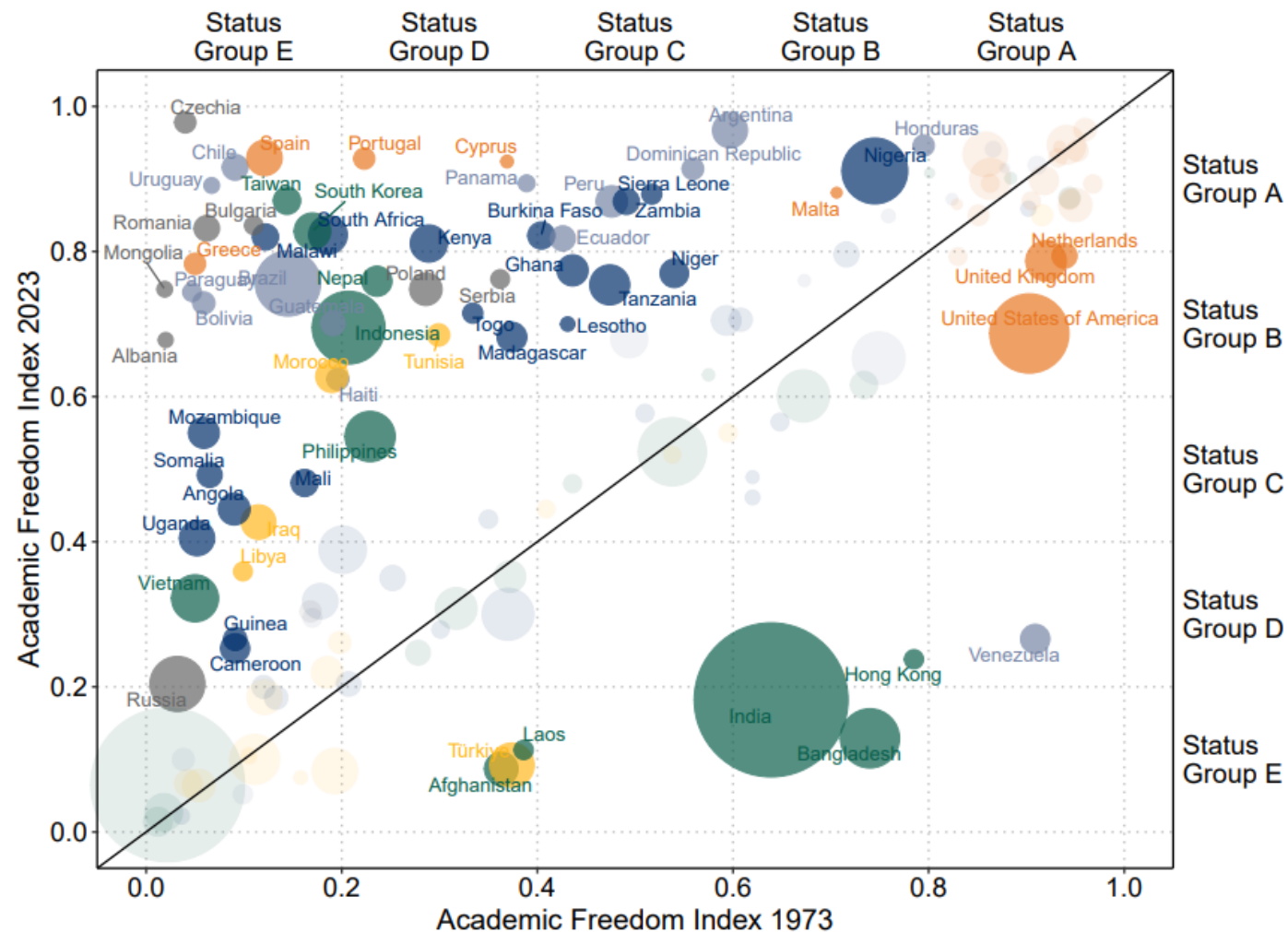


Fifty Years and No Progress?

Today's proportion of the world's population who lack access to academic freedom is comparable to the situation 50 years ago, in 1973



56 countries with substantial progress

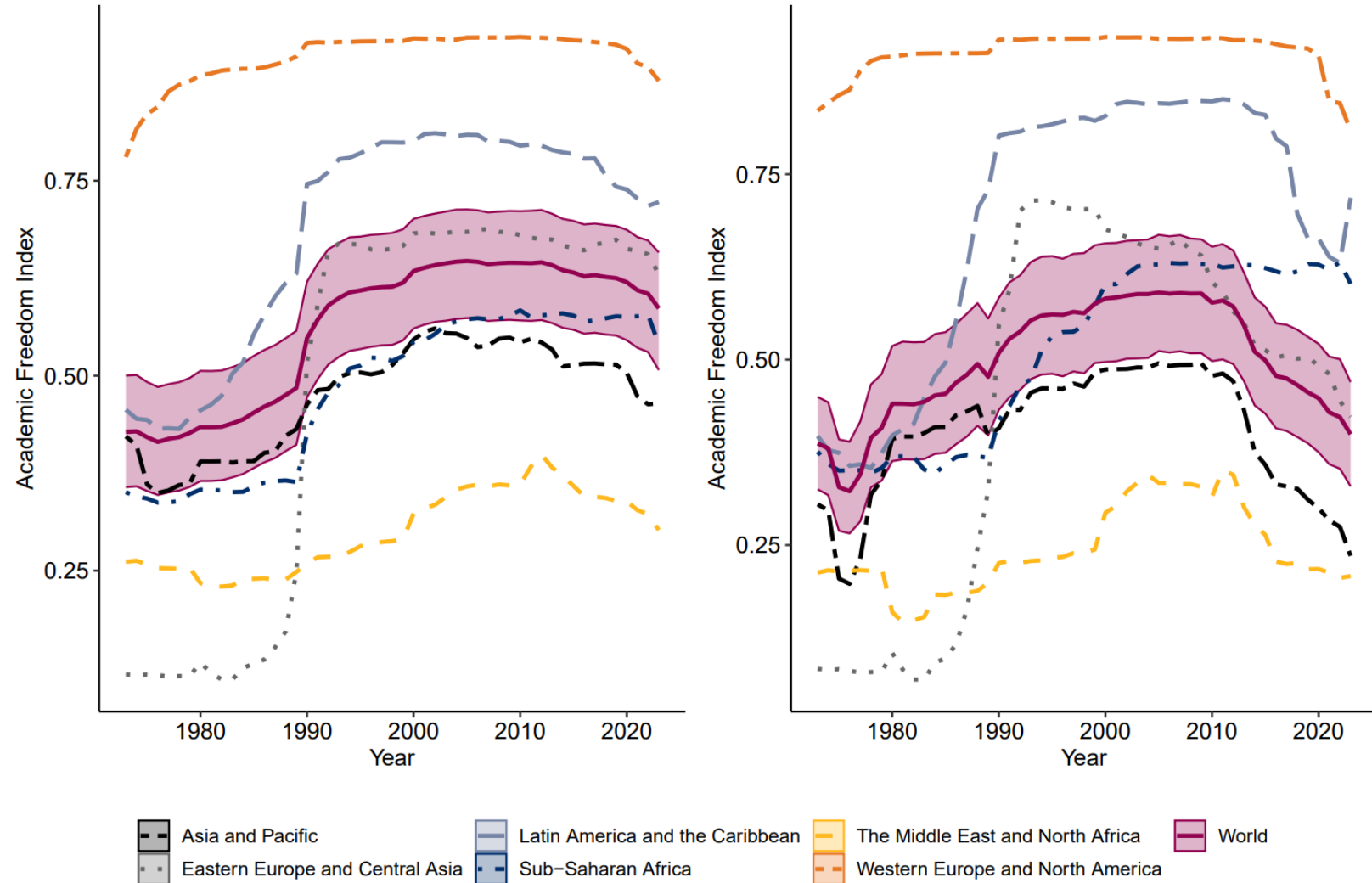


- This figure shows countries with substantial and statistically significant declines and improvements in academic freedom over the past 50 years
- Dots are proportionate in size to country populations
- **56 countries** with more AF compared to 1973
- AF substantially worsened in **ten countries**, which are often populous
- **73 countries** with no improvements and declines

Worldwide developments and regional comparisons

Two perspectives

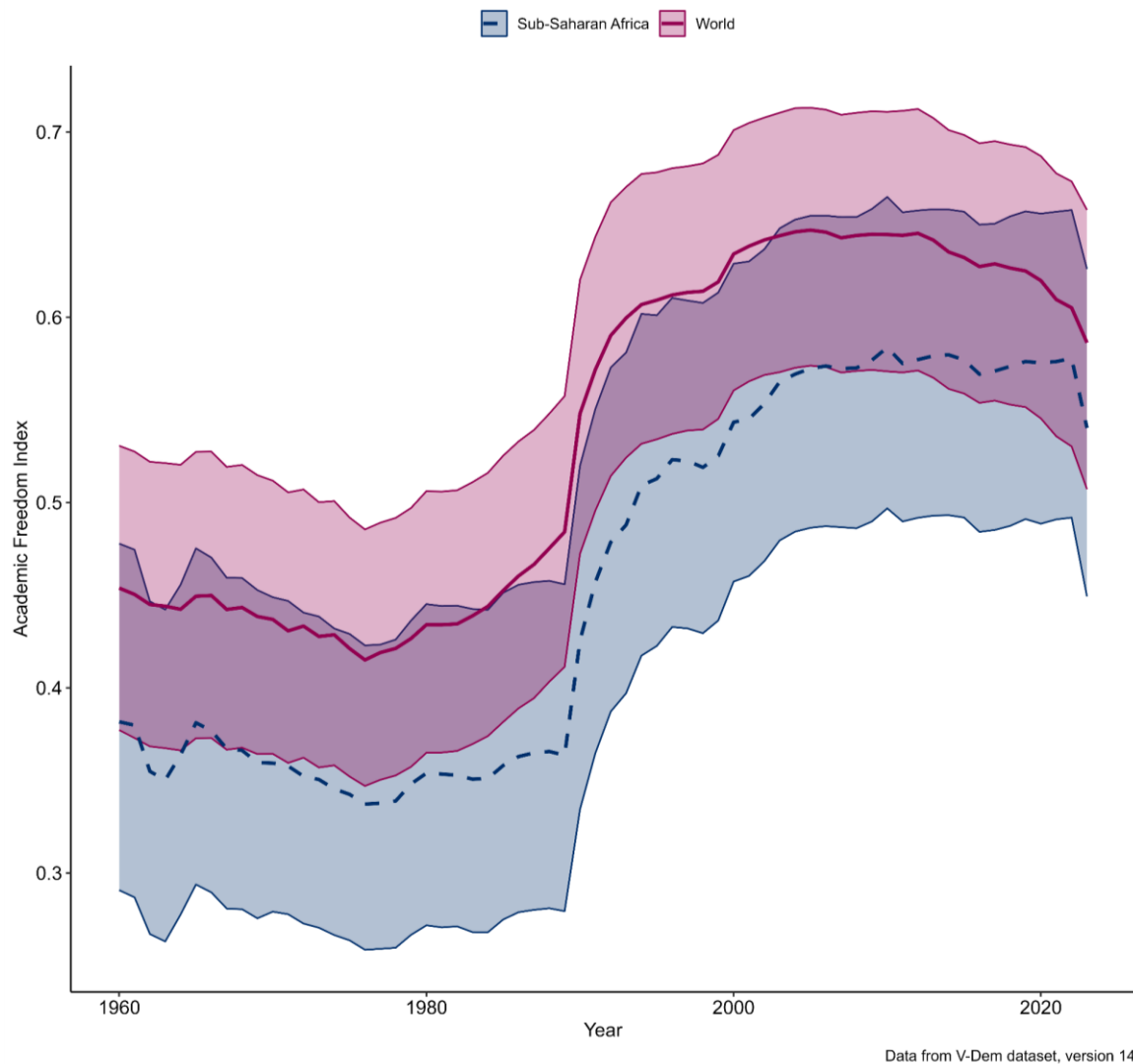
- Country-average (left) by regions and worldwide
- Population-weighted averages (right) by regions and worldwide
- academic freedom started to decline globally around 2008
- population-weighted average decline in academic freedom is much more pronounced.
- For the average global citizen academic freedom is back to a level last registered four decades ago.



Developments in Sub-Saharan Africa

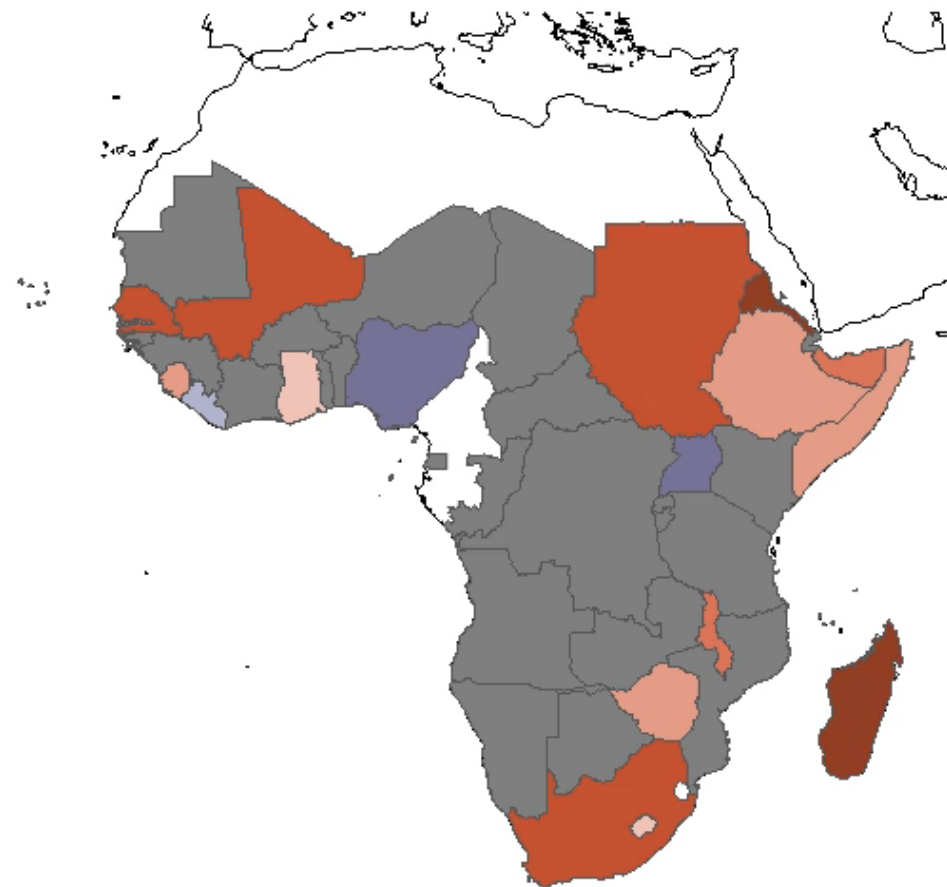
Developments in Sub-Saharan Africa (1950-2023)

Remarkable progress



Academic Freedom Index

1950



Academic Freedom Index
Update 2024




SCAN ME

Academic Freedom Index

Thank you for your attention

Contact: lars.lott@fau.de

 [ACTIVATE MAP](#)

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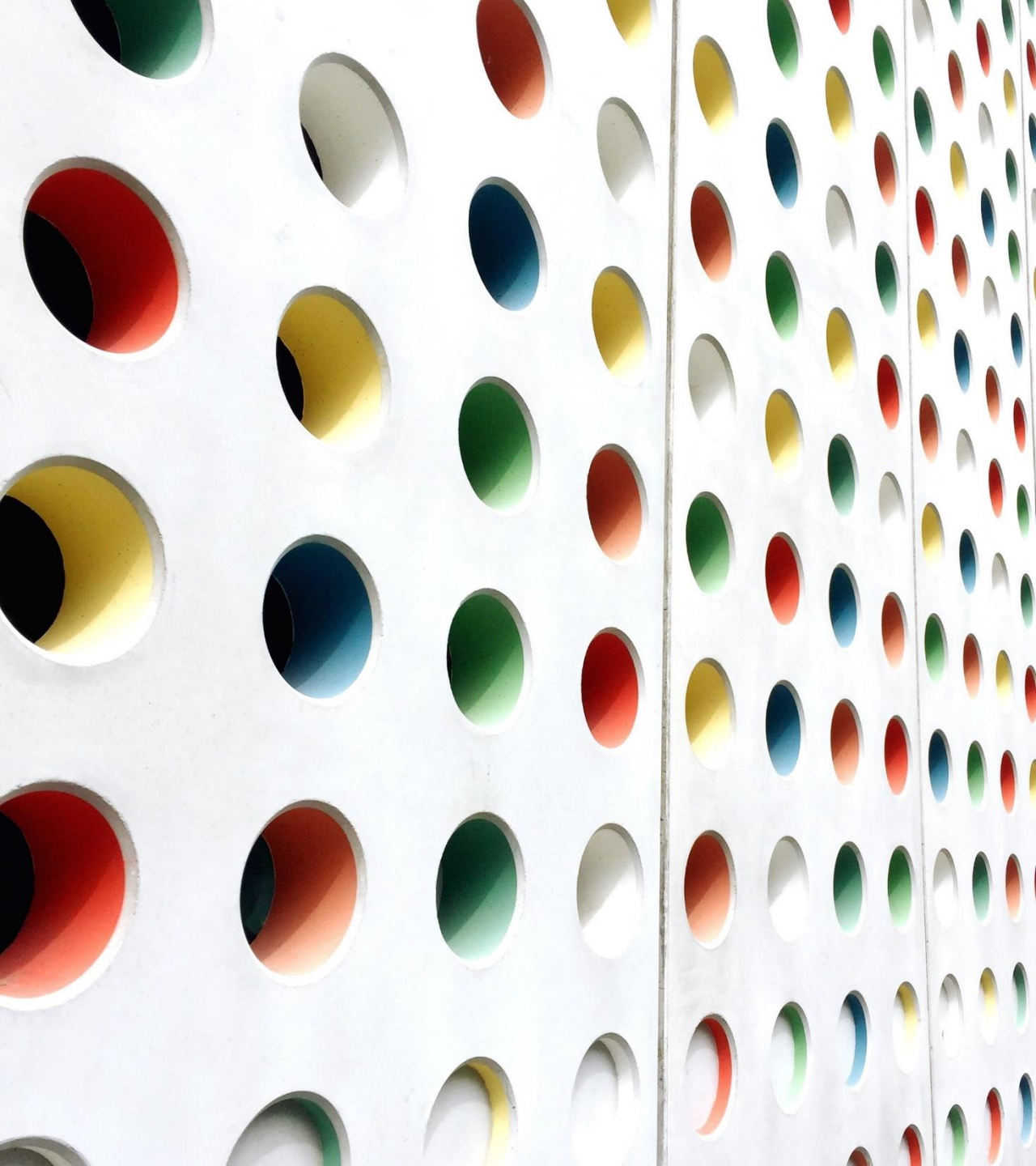
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Roundtable: Opportunities and challenges of academic freedom in international research cooperation

Dominic Liche, University of Zambia, Department of Philosophy and Applied Ethics

Dr. O'Brien Kaaba, University of Zambia, School of Law

Prof. Dr. Gesine Schiewer, University of Bayreuth, Intercultural German Studies



Understanding and Addressing Factors Limiting Academic Freedom in Zambian Public Universities

Dominic Liche
Philosophy and Applied Ethics
University of Zambia

Overview of the Presentation



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**FACTORS LIMITING
ACADEMIC FREEDOM**



**HOW THESE FACTORS CAN
AFFECT INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH**



**SOME WAYS OF
OVERCOMING THEM.**



Factors Limiting Academic Freedom

- ❑ **Political and administrative** influences,
- ❑ **Limited resources** for academic research making most academics rely on donor funds and consultancies for research output,
- ❑ **Public perceptions** on certain research areas on topics that are culturally or religiously controversial like homosexuality or abortion.



Influences on International Collaborative Research

- ❑ One cannot **freely** choose areas for comment or research,
- ❑ **Self censorship** may mean that academics may decline collaborative research on certain topics,
- ❑ Academics in collaborative research from Zambian public universities may have **limited negotiating power** with those coming from resource-rich universities that would have financed the research.



Possible Ways of Overcoming Challenges

1. Institutionalizing academic freedom by **depoliticizing** leadership of academic institutions, and having clear policies and probably **laws** specifically protecting academic freedom,
2. More public **engagement** by academics on **controversial** topics from a researched position.
3. Greater **research funds** by academic institutions in Zambia's public universities.
4. Use of **online tools** where difficulties in travel may hind collaboration

Thank You!



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**We thank you for your attention.
Get in touch for support!**



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