

Resolution

We have been informed about the planned legislation of the Hungarian government to abolish the teaching of Gender Studies in Hungary.

The Society for Media Studies, representing media scholars in Germany, Austria and Switzerland among others expresses its deepest concern regarding this initiative. Gender Studies are a well-established scientific discipline and an integral part of research and teaching plans of the most prestigious institutions of higher education throughout the world. Perspectives of Gender Studies on equality, diversity, identity and difference contributed to the advancement of science and the improvement of society as in general in recent decades. Gender Studies are a discipline embracing a plurality of theoretical perspectives and methods. They provide researchers, students and graduates with the knowledge and skills to address both global and local challenges of social and economic inequality. This discipline is therefore of decisive intellectual and political importance, both at European level and within Hungary.

The proposed measures, which want to ultimately ban the academic education of one particular discipline by law, are representing an unparalleled anti-scientific attack on the freedom of research and teaching. The proposal constitutes a dangerous precedent for state intervention in the composition of all university curricula and cannot be in the interest of a democratically elected government.

Due to the closely entangled relationship of Gender Studies and Media Studies based on a shared disciplinary history, we express our solidarity with all lecturers, students and researchers of Gender Studies in Hungary and we will observe future undertakings to undermine the autonomy of higher education in Hungary also critically.

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