



## Freedom in the Academia: What is Doable?

How free a person is, has been a question that has come to be asked more often in the past few years due to many changes in states interaction with citizens and residents. Academics have generally been regarded at even a more different level of this argument. Despite the fact that academic freedom is at the core of all higher education systems, in many places there have been restrictions and attempts of intervention to academic research.

Although it is a clear and simple concept by definition, the practicing of academic freedom has been subject to many challenges, mainly due to governmental and media interventions and manipulation. The concept of academic freedom entitles one to carry out research freely; yet, it is not necessarily a protection of expression when it comes to societal and/or political issues. Moreover, the societal and political role of the universities during times of crises and whether academia should stay neutral has been much debated.

Building up on the recent discussions regarding academic freedom in Turkey and Europe, we will discuss how free is one when it comes to state policies.

In this week's Today Talks, we are going to discuss the parameters of free expression within academia and the possible challenges to it. How free is the academia in its expressions and statements in different contexts? What is the role of the governmental, societal, religious and other possible factors in drawing the borders of this freedom? Is absolute academic freedom ever possible?

Date: January 21st, 2015  
Starts: 19.00

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