

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ETHICS:

connecting academic freedom and research integrity



Peter-Paul Verbeek | University of Amsterdam | ppverbeek.nl

ENGULFED IN POLARIZATION

Dutch declines in academic freedom a 'multi-dimensional problem'

Science academy urges government to facilitate curiosity-driven research and protect researchers from intimidation

Published on May 17, 2025

Last updated May 17, 2025

Minister Moes wil dat Radboud aangifte doet tegen docent Harry Pettit

Redactie · 10 oktober 2025 17:14

Demissionair onderwijsminister Gouke Moes wil dat de Radboud Universiteit aangifte doet tegen docent Harry Pettit. Moes: "De minister "vermoeden" diens tweets een on-

Massive education cuts in the Netherlands target international students. Universities protest

The Dutch government plans to reduce the number of international students admitted to universities and make foreign language courses an exception. Five hundred million less for universities, faculties begin to close. Protests in Maastricht, Amsterdam, Eindhoven, and Delft.

How Woke Universities Demoralize Their Best People

By the Anonymous Academic



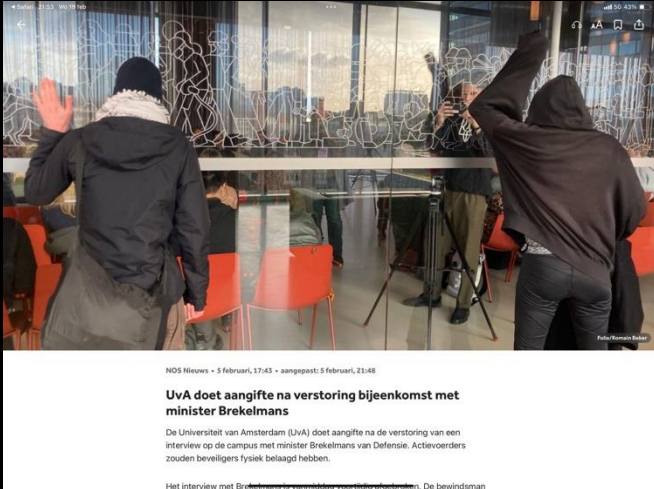
KONSTANTIN KISIN

JUL 24, 2024 · PAID

Woke Madness and the University

Robert Leroux

How the Rise of Woke 'Educrats' Is Destroying Higher Education



EW

Brekelmans ontvlucht anti-Israël-protest: debat nog mogelijk op UvA?



Onderwijsminister Gouke Moes (BBB) opent aanval op de academische vrijheid

Opinie • Vandaag • leestijd 7 minuten • 5236 keer bekeken •  bewaren



 Gouke Moes/Harry Pettit. © ANP / Nieuwsuur

**Radboud-docent noemt oproep om
aangifte door minister
'krankzinnig': 'Ik roep niet op tot
geweld'**



 Harry Pettit (rechts) bij een Palestina-protest bij de Radboud Universiteit op 2 juni. © dg

**Minister gaat universiteit bellen
over pro-Palestijnse docent, maar
Radboud Universiteit noemt die
'bemoeienis' ongepast**

Een minister die een universiteit belt om deze te berispen vanwege de

CHALLENGES TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND INTEGRITY

FROM OUTSIDE:

government interference challenges institutional autonomy

→ *academic integrity requires independence*

FROM WITHIN:

radical forms of activism challenge openness of universities

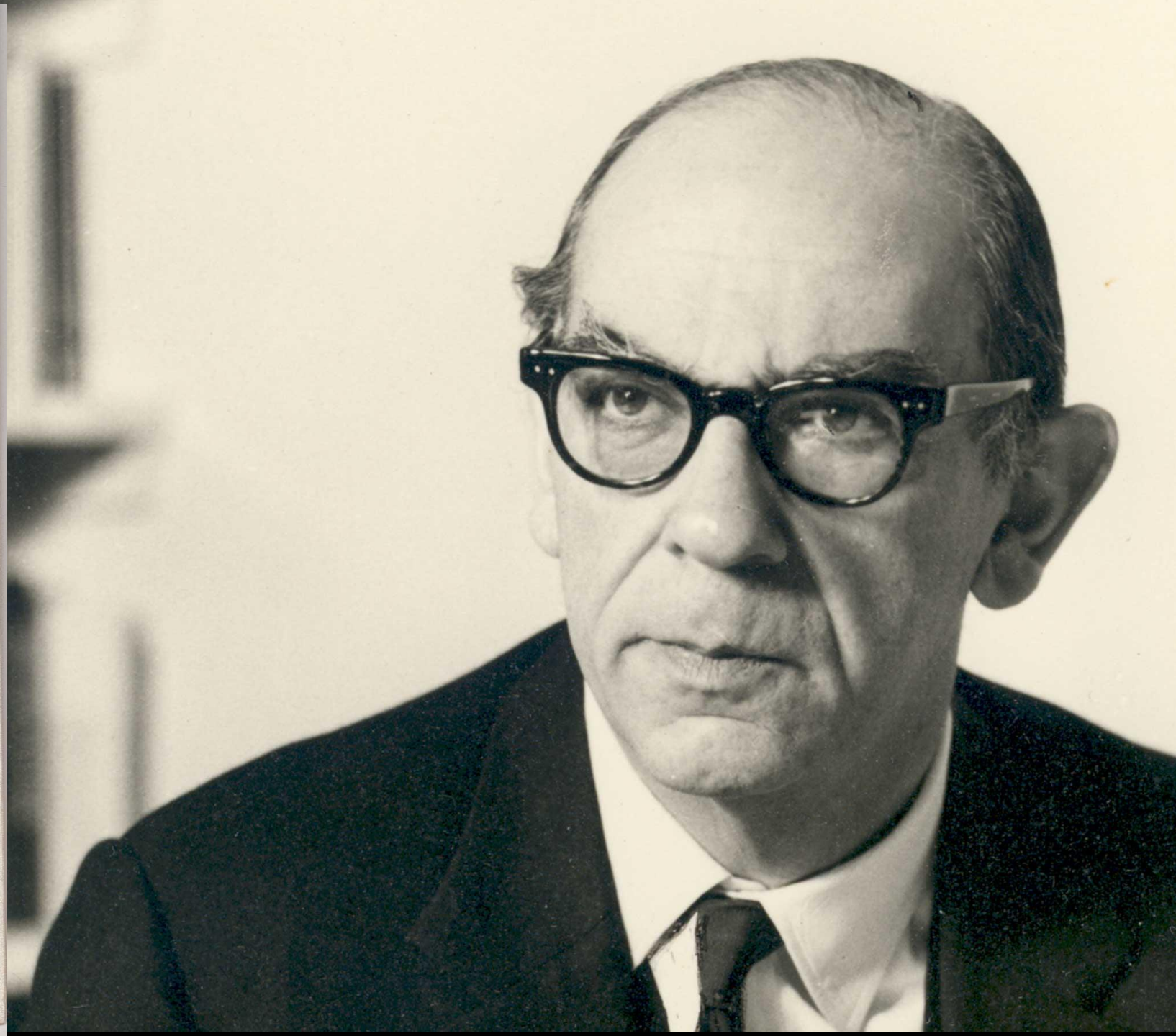
→ *academic integrity requires open exchange of ideas*

TWO CONCEPTS OF LIBERTY

An Inaugural Lecture
delivered before
the University of Oxford
on 31 October 1958

by
ISAIAH BERLIN

OXFORD
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS



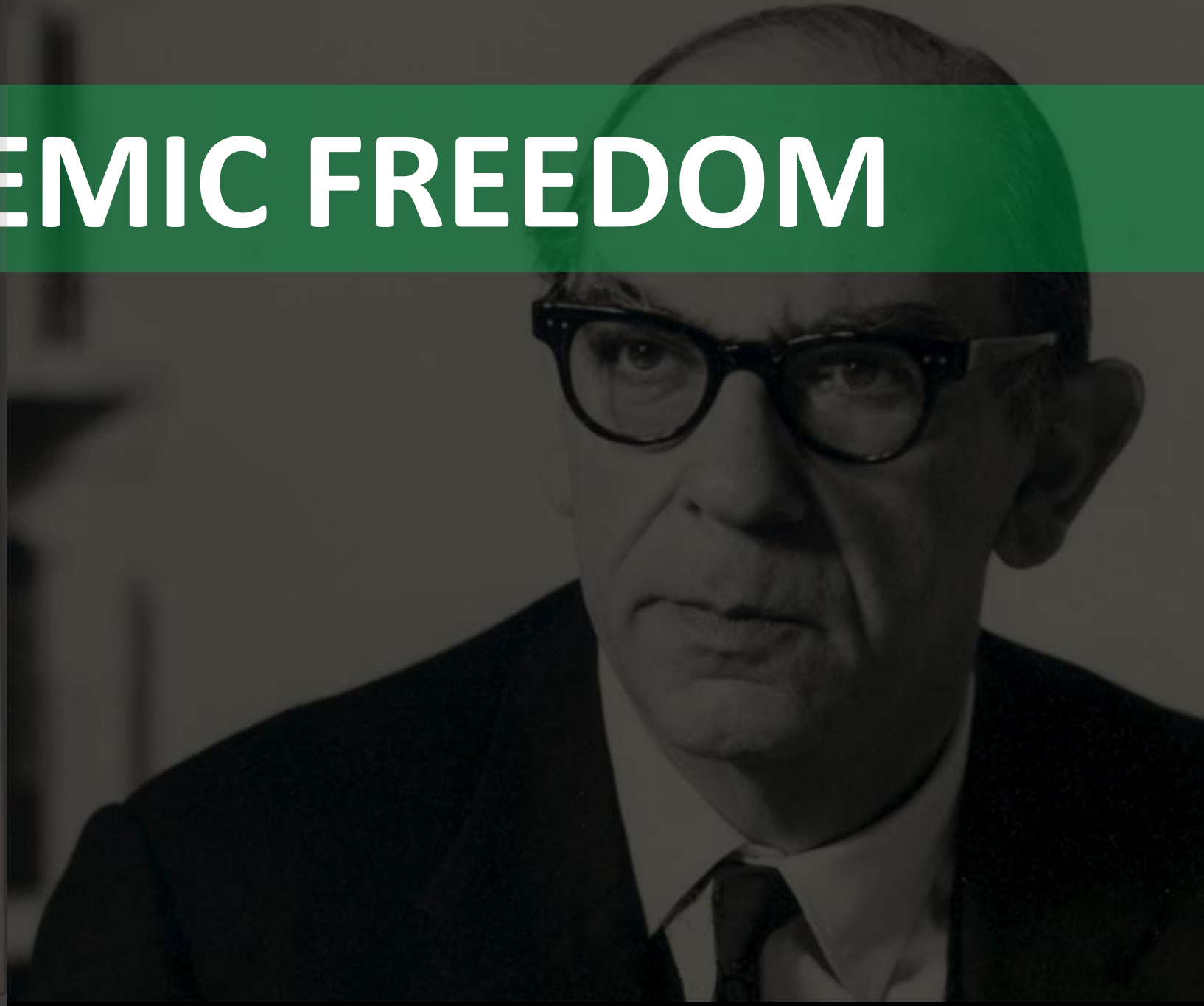
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ACADEMIC FREEDOM





ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Negative: freedom from ...



ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Negative: freedom from ...

Positive: freedom to ...

Freedom and responsibility

- **Integrity requires negative freedom:**
independent research makes science reliable
- **Positive freedom comes with responsibility:**
integrity requires responsibility, which can restrict 'negative freedom'
- **Protests are typically about such restrictions:**
“cut the ties”
- **How to combine academic freedom and integrity?**

THE SCIENCE PARADOX



THE SCIENCE PARADOX

VALUE - FREE BUT ALSO VALUABLE

NEUTRAL BUT ALSO INFLUENTIAL

INDEPENDENT BUT ALSO RELEVANT

EXAMPLE 1:

FOSSIL COLLABORATIONS



SHELL VIOLATES
HUMAN RIGHTS
BUT IS WELCOME
AT THE UvA

OCCUPIED

END NEOLIBERALIZATION OF UvA

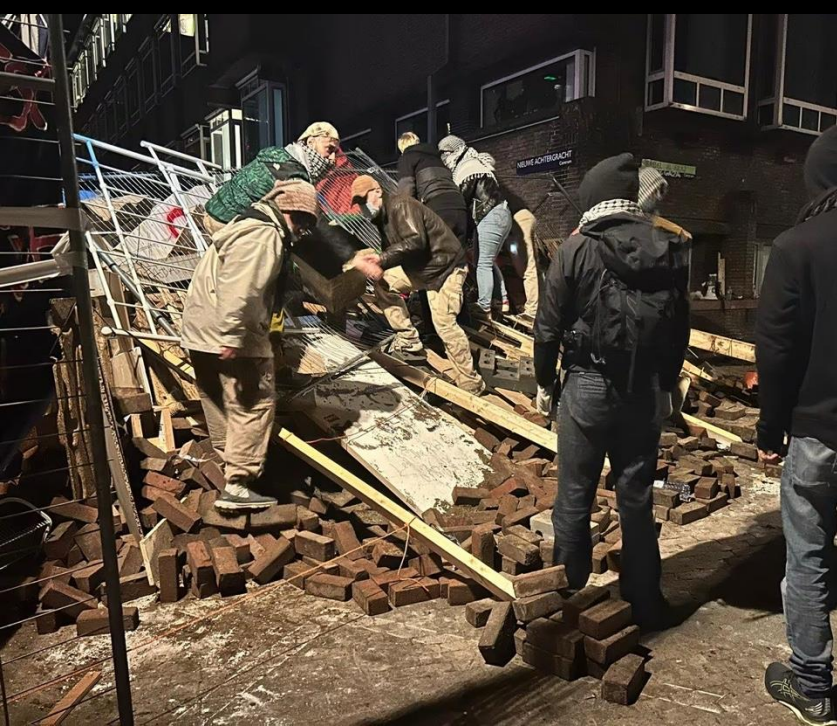
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Fossil collaborations

- **Demand:** “cut the ties”
- **Question:** on which basis can academic freedom be limited?
- **Basis:** ethical frameworks beyond academic controversy
- **Approach:** dialogues to reach broad consensus
- **Outcome:** ethical limits to academic freedom: “no, unless”

EXAMPLE 2:

COLLABORATIONS WITH ISRAELI UNIVERSITIES





**DEMAND:
Take position!**





DEMAND:
Cut the ties!
Spice



Israeli universities

- **“Take position”:**
but hesitant because of academic freedom (open debate)
- **“Cut the ties”:**
but distinction between political and ethical action
(no boycott to influence Israel but ethical limits to ensure responsibility)
- **Dynamic combination of freedom and responsibility:**
 - *human rights violations:*
case by case assessment of collaborations (open collaborations as basis)
 - *growing consensus on genocidal violence:* we did take position
 - *broad consensus on genocide:*
no new collaborations, attempt to withdraw from existing collaborations



Positive and negative ethics

- **Negative ethics:**
stopping what you do not want
- **Positive ethics:**
shaping conditions for what you do want
- **Protests:**
no ban but rules, because they are important
- **Collaborations:**
canceling as last resort, positive impact as basis

NOS - NTR

Met wie praat de UvA?
'Betogers houden
gezicht bedekt'



nieuwsuur

Donderdag 9 mei 2024, 23:12

**UvA weet niet met wie ze onderhandelt:
'Studenten met gezichtsbedekking aan tafel'**

Peter-Paul Verbeek, rector magnificus van de UvA, is een laffe slapjanus



Door **ROB HOOGLAND**
10 mei 2024 in COLUMNS



Goed idee voor Geert en Caroline: wikkel bij de onderhandelingen zo'n arafatsjaal om je gezicht. Zeg niet wie je bent en waar je vandaan komt, voer het gesprek in gebroken Engels en ze gaan onmiddellijk akkoord met je immigratie-eisen.



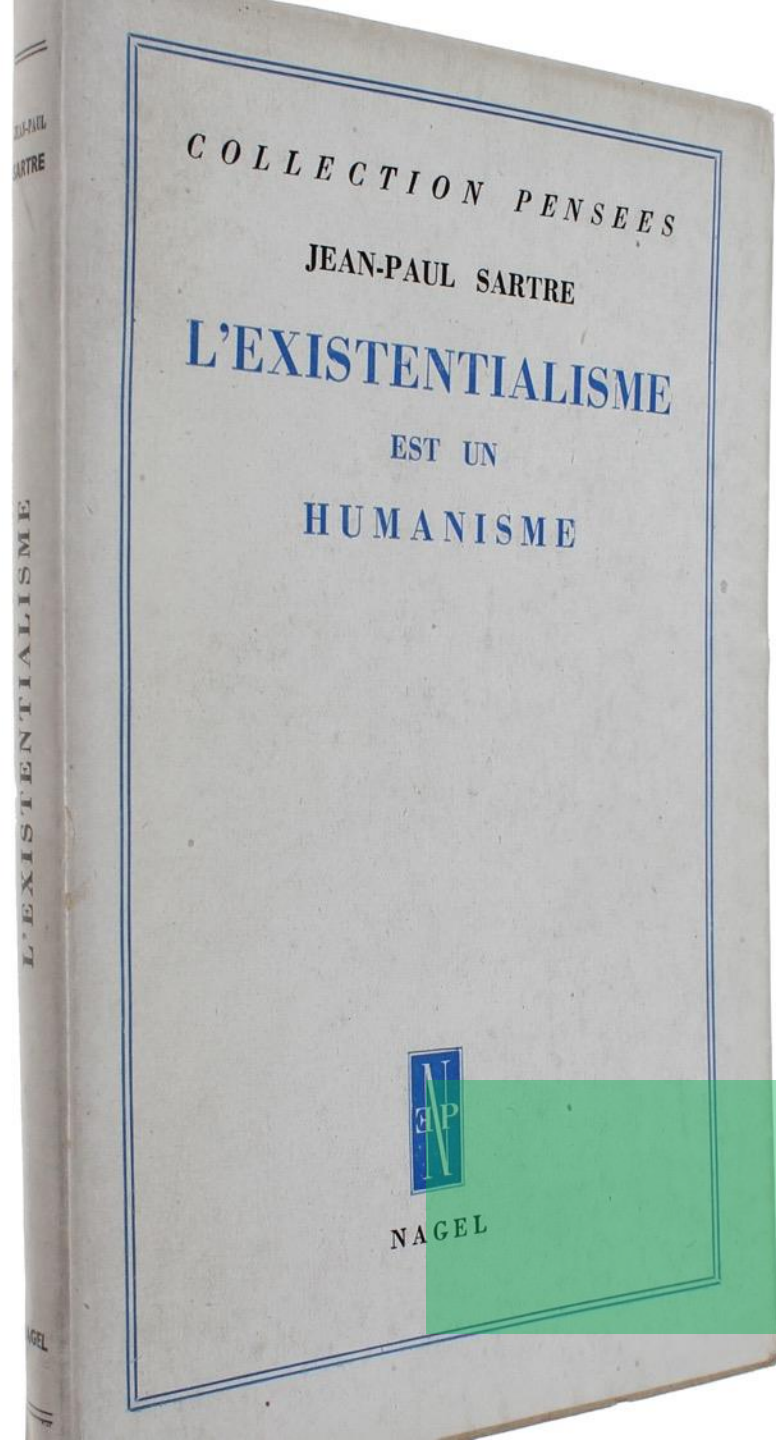


ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Negative: freedom from ...

Positive: freedom to ...

Existential: freedom as ...



FATE

SCHRIFTEN DER UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG
HEFT 1

DIE IDEE DER UNIVERSITÄT

VON

KARL JASPERS

PROFESSOR DER PHILOSOPHIE AN DER UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG



SPRINGER-VERLAG BERLIN HEIDELBERG GMBH

946

AUTHENTICITY



SØREN KIERKEGAARD

Første selvstændige
udgivelse af
Kierkegaards „selvbiografi“
i fiktiv form.

JOHANNES CLIMACUS

ELLER
DE OMNIBUS DUBITANDUM EST

Forord af Peter P. Rohde

DOUBT

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ETHICS

