

Scientific freedom and science diplomacy: a contribution from the studies on democracy and legal-institutional arrangements

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Overview

- (1) The current critical juncture of polycrisis
- (2) The importance and challenges of scientific freedom and science diplomacy
- (3) Contributions from studies on democracy and legal-institutional arrangements to this debate.

Final remarks: a proposal for potential collaboration between German and Brazilian researchers

1. The world at a critical juncture of polycrisis

- Climate change, deep geopolitical shifts and instability, processes of autocratization, economic insecurity, growing inequalities, urban violence, and the risk of pandemics
- Gridlock in global governance and the rise of nationalist-populist movements
- Digital technologies

Why, paradoxically, in an era with so many technological alternatives to address global challenges, are institutions growing unable to deliver solutions? What are the importance of scientific freedom and science diplomacy to address these issues? What are the main challenges in fulfilling its role?

2. The importance and the challenges of scientific freedom and science diplomacy

- UNESCO, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1988 Brazilian Constitution
- Threats to scientific freedom: (1) illiberal and authoritarian governments, (2) economic power, (3) digital information and communication technologies
- 2 major paradoxes
- The role of science diplomacy

3. State Theory and the studies on democracy and legal-institutional arrangements

- Political institutions, legal arrangements and ideas
- Crisis of democracy between law and politics
- State Theory
- To map legal-institutional arrangements and alternatives

Final remarks: a proposal for potential collaboration between German and Brazilian researchers

- To identify, map, describe and understand the conditions that explain shortcomings, threats and successes of democratic institutions in building trust and consensus, as well as processing dissensus
- To develop novel interdisciplinary understandings of more resilient, legitimate and responsive democratic institutions in order to address the contemporary global challenges

Thank you very much!
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