

# **Knowledge and Power: The International Struggle for Academic Freedom**

**February 7-8, 2025**

Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire  
255 Barclay Parade SW  
Calgary, Alberta

**CAUT and Education International Academic Freedom Conference 2025**

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Across the globe, academics are facing mounting pressures and attacks in both authoritarian and democratic countries. Censorship of course material, elimination of programs of study, and the harassment, intimidation, and detention of scholars are all too common. This conference reviews the global state of academic freedom with the aim of developing concrete ways it can be strengthened. Panellists will evaluate the existing legal foundations of academic freedom in domestic and international law, explore how academic staff unions and civil society groups are organizing to defend and advance academic freedom, and discuss how the right to academic freedom can be better monitored and enforced.

## Agenda

### Friday, February 7

- 08:00 – 09:00      **Registration and Breakfast (*provided*)**
- 09:00 – 09:15      **Welcome and Overview**
- 09:15 – 10:30      **Keynote Address**
- The Global State of Academic Freedom:  
Key Trends and Developments
- 10:30 – 11:00      **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30      **Comparative Legal Foundations for Academic Freedom**
- 12:30 – 13:30      **Lunch (*provided*)**
- 13:30 – 15:00      **Regional Roundtable 1: Academic Freedom in  
North America and Europe**
- 15:00 – 15:30      **Break**
- 15:30 – 17:00      **Regional Roundtable 2: Academic Freedom in  
Latin America and Asia-Pacific**
- 18:00 – 19:30      **Reception**

### Saturday, February 8

- 09:00 – 10:30      **Regional Roundtable 3: Academic Freedom  
in Africa and the Middle East**
- 10:30 – 11:00      **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30      **Academic Freedom and Democracy**
- 12:30 – 13:30      **Lunch (*provided*)**
- 13:30 – 15:00      **Toward a New International Agenda for Academic  
Freedom**
- 15:00 – 15:30      **Break**
- 15:30 – 17:00      **Conference Conclusions**