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Free Speech for Conservatives in UK Academia: Fact or Fiction?

The issue of free speech for C/conservatives in academia has gained significant attention in recent years, with claims of censorship, bias, and suppression of C/conservative or right-wing voices – either by colleagues, students, or organisations, and also from one's self. This talk will critically examine whether these concerns are valid or overblown in the UK academic context, bringing together contemporary data and personal experiences. It will also look at other ideological groups among the student body who may feel their views and experiences are being stifled, and what can be done to ensure free speech across campuses. It will highlight the danger of 'Americanising' the debate around free speech and C/conservatives in the UK.

Keywords: Free speech, Conservatives, university, higher education, campus