



Dear colleagues,

With this email, we would like to invite you to the upcoming online lecture organized by the Institute for Higher Education Management.

Title: US and Global Higher Education in the Trump Era

Date: June 4, 2025 at 3pm CET

Speaker: John Aubrey Douglass, *Senior Research Fellow - Public Policy and Higher Education at the Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE)*

Location: online via [MS Teams](#) livestream.

Please express your interest by registering with verena.herbsthofner@wu.ac.at

Looking forward to welcoming you,
Barbara Sporn

Abstract:

Trump and his administration cling to an isolationist, 'America first' foreign policy and a Christian Neo-nationalism agenda. His plot is to consolidate unprecedented powers in the presidency which, among other things, presents an on-going and existential threat to American universities and civil society in the US. This evolving policy agenda also has significant consequences for transnational engagement among universities and academic communities – shaping what I call a Neo-Academic Cold War. Since Trump's return to the White House, a precipice scenario has taken form: huge cuts in academic science funding, efforts to reclassify and fire or mute thousands of federal civil service professionals and scientists with expertise in areas such as climate change, investigation and demands for the end of DEI programs and curricular changes at universities, impounding of federal funds for specific universities, restricting access to federally collected scientific data, new and abusive visa restrictions, and arrests and deportations and other moves that hinder academic talent mobility and international science collaborations. Then there is Trump's politics of personal retribution. Trump has made it clear: with new assumed and unprecedented powers of an imperial presidency, his administration is going after his real and imagined enemies, including students and faculty and other vocal critics. In short, Trump's return to the presidency is cataclysmic for American universities, for academic freedom and for global science networks.

About the speaker

[John Aubrey Douglass](#) is Senior Research Fellow - Public Policy and Higher Education at the Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE) and faculty member in the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California - Berkeley. He is the lead author of [Neo-Nationalism and Universities: Populists, Autocrats and the Future of HE](#) (Johns Hopkins Univ Press, [Open Access](#)). Recent related articles include, [Leading a university is set to become even more difficult](#), University World News, 11 January 2025, [Universities as Truthsayers](#), in [Seeds for Democratic Futures](#), The New Institute, Dec 2024. He is also a co-author of the recent report [The Multi-Engagement Model: Understanding Diverse Pathways to Student Success at Research Universities](#) which provides a data-driven analytical framework for a holistic understanding of the undergraduate student experience at large research-intensive public universities.