



Around the world, academic and cultural institutions face a dramatic wave of financial and ideological hazards. Far from scholarly luxuries, the humanities and social sciences foster democratic life, encourage multicultural coexistence, and strengthen our capacity to imagine livable collective futures. Disproportionate attacks on these disciplines threaten not only operational budgets, but also the suite of values embodied in higher education: curiosity and creativity, dialogue and justice, critical inquiry and thoughtful reflection. In such precarious times – marked by geopolitical uncertainty, cultural upheaval, economic inequality, and reactionary political backlash – we at IIAS reaffirm these values and oppose any efforts to undermine them.