



Debating Academic Freedom in India

Abstract:

The presentation considers how academic freedom gets defined in the world's largest democracy – India. Professor Tierney puts forward what academic freedom is not, and then argue how academic freedom gets defined within the Indian context of the 21st century. Currently, the role of universities in Indian society, in general, and the ability of academic staff (faculty) to speak out on an array of issues, in particular, has become a central concern within India. Tierney's purpose is neither to side with one or another interpretation of academic freedom but instead to delineate a way to think about academic freedom such that individuals might engage in scholarly debate that neither threatens one's physical safety nor shuts down conversation.

Professor William G Tierney
Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California

November 17, 2016 (Thursday)
16:30 – 18:00
T7, Meng Wah Complex, HKU
(Chair: Professor Kai-ming Cheng)

About the speaker:

William G. Tierney is Co-Director of the Pullias Center for Higher Education, University Professor and Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education at the Rossier School of Education. Former President of the USC Academic Senate, he chaired the Ph.D. program for the USC Rossier School of Education and chaired the University Committee on Academic Review. He also served as president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. He is Past President of the American Educational Research Association. His research interests pertain to organizational performance, equity, and faculty roles and rewards. Dr. Tierney teaches courses on the administration and governance of higher education and on qualitative methods. He is currently HKU Visiting Research Professor.

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