אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا

The Gerd Bucerius Research Institute
for Contemporary German History and Society
המכון ע"ש גרד בוצריוס לחקר ההיסטוריה והחברה הגרמנית בזמננו
معهد غيرد بوتسريوس لبحث تاريخ ألمانيا ومجتمعها المعاصرين
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA אוניברסיטת חיפה

ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS

12th Annual Bucerius Lecture

Drawing the Line - Navigating Between Academic Freedom and Responsibility, Based on the Example of a German Art University

Prof. Marting Köttering (President of the University of Fine Arts Hamburg)

How much freedom does a university need, and where does its responsibility begin? Using the example of the Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg, this lecture goes right to the heart of one of the central questions of our time: the tension between academic independence on the one hand, and societal expectations and political pressure on the other.

The starting point is the controversy surrounding Documenta Fifteen, which has profoundly shaken the German art and university landscape. The discourse on antisemitism, the culture of remembrance, and postcolonial perspectives revealed how strongly the demand for "red lines" in art and academia affects our understanding of democracy, plurality, and social cohesion.

The lecture advocates for a stance that withstands ambiguity, opens up spaces for dialogue, and understands freedom not as an arbitrary commodity, but as a responsible practice. In a time of increasing polarization, it becomes clear that only through critical reflection, trust, and openness can universities and art institutions fulfill their mission: to take responsibility for the present while simultaneously being places of unconditional freedom.

Monday, 27.10.2025
16:00-17:30
Ofer Observatory, 30th Floor, University of Haifa
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