

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910956090603321
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Titolo	Academic freedom and the law : a comparative study / Eric Barendt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; Portland, Oregon, : Hart Publishing, 2010
ISBN	9786613078858 9781847318039 1847318037 9781472560827 1472560825 9781283078856 1283078856 9781847316103 1847316107
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (359 p.)
Disciplina	344.07
Soggetti	Universities and colleges - Law and legislation University autonomy Academic freedom - Great Britain Academic freedom - Germany Academic freedom - United States Intellectual freedom - Great Britain Intellectual freedom - Germany Intellectual freedom - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [315]-320) and index
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- What is academic freedom? -- Justifying academic freedom -- Academic freedom in the United Kingdom -- Academic freedom in Germany -- Academic freedom in the United States -- Restrictions on freedom of research -- Academic freedom in the age of terrorism -- Freedom of extramural speech -- The Chris Brand case 1. INTRODUCTION -- I. The Puzzle of Academic Freedom -- II. A Vulnerable Freedom -- III. The Scope of the Book -- 2. WHAT IS

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Sommario/riassunto

Academic Freedom and the Law: A Comparative Study provides a critical analysis of the law relating to academic freedom in three major jurisdictions: the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States. The book outlines the various claims which may be made to academic freedom by individual university teachers and by universities and other higher education institutions, and it examines the justifications which have been put forward for these claims. Three separate chapters deal with the legal principles of academic freedom in the UK, Germany, and the USA. A further chapter is devoted to the restrictions on freedom of research which may be imposed by the regulation of clinical trials, by intellectual property laws, and by the terms of contracts made between researchers and the companies sponsoring medical and other research. The book also examines the impact of recent terrorism laws on the teaching and research freedom of academics, and it discusses their freedom to speak about general political and social topics unrelated to their work. This is the first comparative study of a subject of fundamental importance to all academics and others working in universities. It emphasises the importance of academic freedom, while pointing out that, on occasion, exaggerated claims have been made to its exercise