

Forum for vitenskap
og demokrati



– et debattforum som setter universitets-
og forskningspolitikk på dagsorden

Pierre De Vos: Academic freedom and the Constitution: Experiences from post-apartheid South Africa

During the apartheid era some universities enthusiastically promoted the apartheid ideology, while others resisted the regime. Today, academic freedom and the independence of universities are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Over the past 18 months this independence has been questioned by an emerging student movement. Students complain that many academics show little or no concern for the specific realities of South Africa and the African continent and often fail to engage with African knowledge systems, ways of thinking, and texts. They therefore demand that the Universities and their curricula should be “decolonized”.

Professor De Vos’ talk engages with the following question: How can academic freedom be protected at South African Universities without protecting them from having to engage critically with the exciting but complex questions raised by the burgeoning student movement?



Pierre De Vos

Tid: tirsdag 20. september 2016, kl. 14.15-15.45
Sted: Christie (Godt Brød Muséplassen)
Møteleder: Tor Halvorsen