



Tübingen, June 18th 2026

Solidarity with Prof. Dr. Christina Brüning

Countering the Rise of the Far Right on College Campuses

As researchers at the Institute for Research on Far Right Extremism (IRex) at the University of Tübingen, we stand in solidarity with Prof. Dr. Christina Brüning (Professor of History Education at the University of Marburg) and her team.

Christina Brüning and members of her team have been harassed and threatened for years—both openly in seminar settings and anonymously through offensive stickers on their office doors and death threats scrawled on bathroom walls. The overt attacks and attempts at intimidation seem to originate in particular from students belonging to various fraternities that practice mandatory dueling, promote a “brotherhood” culture, and are linked to far-right networks. The consequences are severe: workspaces have had to be relocated for safety reasons, and teaching has had to take place digitally; the affected scholars’ participation in academic life and their well-being are severely restricted.

At the same time, it is important to note that this is neither an isolated case nor a problem that affects only Marburg. Scholars who research far-right extremism —particularly anti-Semitism, racism, anti-feminism, and discrimination—and/or who take a stand against the far right’s encroachment, report in internal working groups and networks nationwide on far-right influence and attempts at intimidation at universities—in teaching, in university committees, and in participation in everyday university life. Various research projects provide empirical evidence of the scale and impact of hostility toward researchers.

We express our solidarity and sympathy with all affected scholars. Attacks, attempts at intimidation, and public campaigns against researchers are not merely attacks on individuals; they undermine the very foundations of an open, democratic academic culture. It must not be overlooked that such incidents entail significant psychological and emotional strain for those affected, as well as a substantial additional investment of time and effort. Coping with hostility, documenting incidents, seeking legal clarification, and engaging in public debate tie up resources that should be available for research, teaching, and scholarly exchange. Universities

and research institutions bear a special responsibility here to effectively protect and support their employees. It is therefore important that the various levels of the higher education landscape take a clear stance and take active measures.

A proactive stance is required with the goal of safeguarding a democratic university culture and creating spaces free from discrimination. This includes countering far-right attempts to exert influence early on and effectively. Central to this is the fulfillment of the duty of university leadership to protect their employees—through visible solidarity, institutional support, and concrete protective measures.

On behalf of the leadership team of the Institute for Research on Far Right Extremism (IRex) at the University of Tübingen:

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