

Open letter from Dr Alexandre Nobajas, Human Geography Programme Director, School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, Keele University (United Kingdom) in support of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

I want to show my support for the scientific activity developed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and more specifically, by the Geographical Institute Research Center for Astronomy and Earth Sciences (GI RCAES HAS). The Geographical Institute is recognized as an outstanding center for independent and rigorous scholarship and research in social and natural sciences.

It is widely accepted that a successful academia can only emerge from the freedom of researchers to carry out their work, as past examples show us that when academic freedom is hindered all aspects of society can suffer from it. For this reason, any political interference that aims to difficult freedom of thought or speech will go against the core of what academia stands for.

Simultaneously, any attempt at political interference with research and freedom of speech or thought is unthinkable in the context of a modern and advanced Europe, and will have a long lasting impact on academia and the general population.

It is for all this that the professionalism of HAS researchers should be recognized by the Hungarian government and it should aim to increase its freedom of research without ideological limitations.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexandre Nobajas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Alexandre Nobajas

Keele, 12 February 2019