

Universities under threats



- 1933-45: Nazi Germany
- 1950-54: McCarthyism
- 1966-76: Cultural revolution in China
- 2018-25: Anti-woke cultural war

Three forms



- Exclusion of targeted groups
- Elimination of equity promotion programs
- Prohibition of courses, censorship, book banning, and indoctrination

Exclusion of targeted growingsion Expert



Women in Afghanistan

DeSantis appointee to university board says women should become mothers, not pursue higher ed

By Kate Payne - Associated Press/Report For America Published January 10, 2025 at 3:22 PM EST











B-Roll Screenshot / University Of West Florida

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Exclusion of targeted growing Som Expert



- Women in Afghanistan
- LGBTIQ+ community (some US states, Poland, Russia, African countries)
- Names and tribal affiliations (some US states)
- Hair and dress style (Iran, France, Saudi Arabia, some US states)

Elimination of equity promotion programs



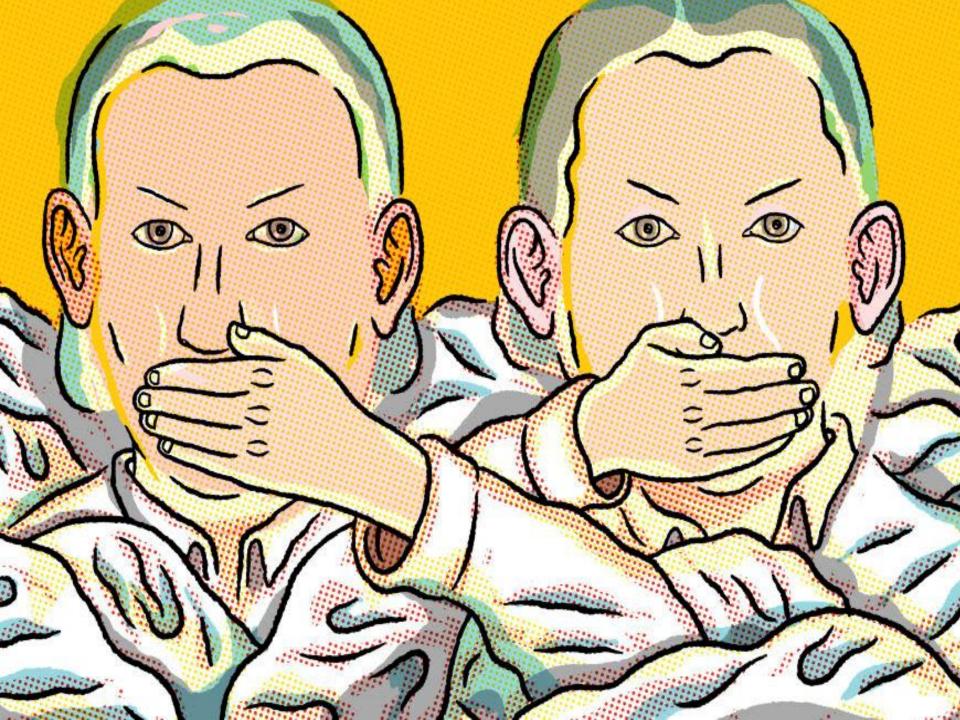
- Affirmative action in the United States (Supreme Court decision in June 2023)
- DEI programs in red states
- Public subsidies and financial aid in several countries (Chile, Colombia, Philippines, South Africa)
- Since January 2025, DEI across the United States (and beyond)



Course prohibition, censorship, JAMIL SALMI book banning, indoctrination



- Gender studies, Black studies, critical race theory, decolonialization
- Book banning (Hungary, USA, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Emirates)



Diversity,

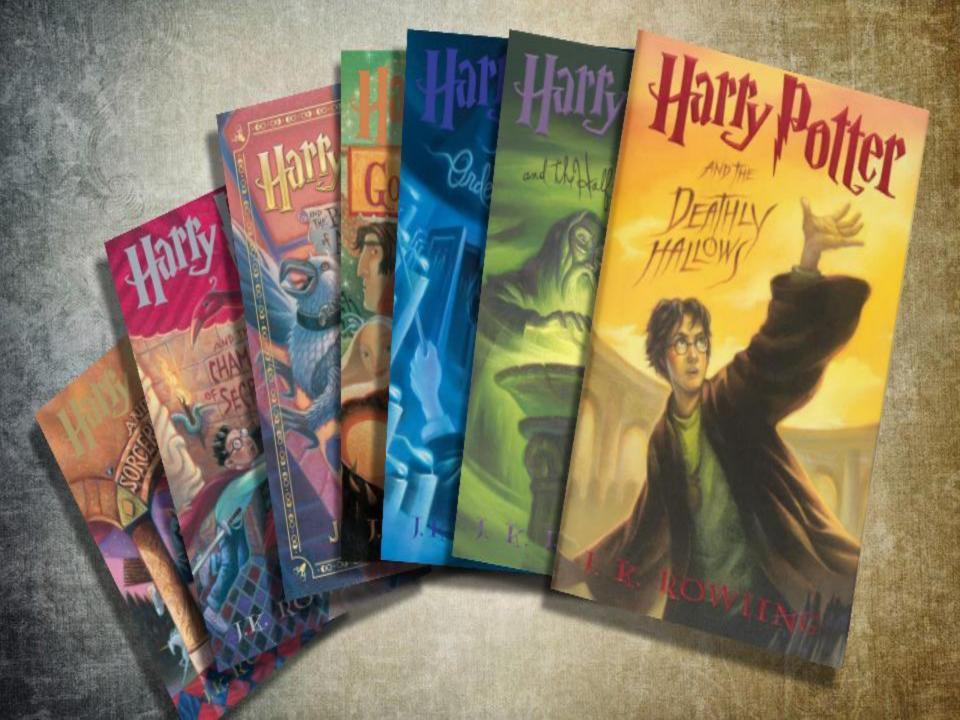
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- Book banning (Hungary, USA, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Emirates)
- Christian religious education imposed in some US states (Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)

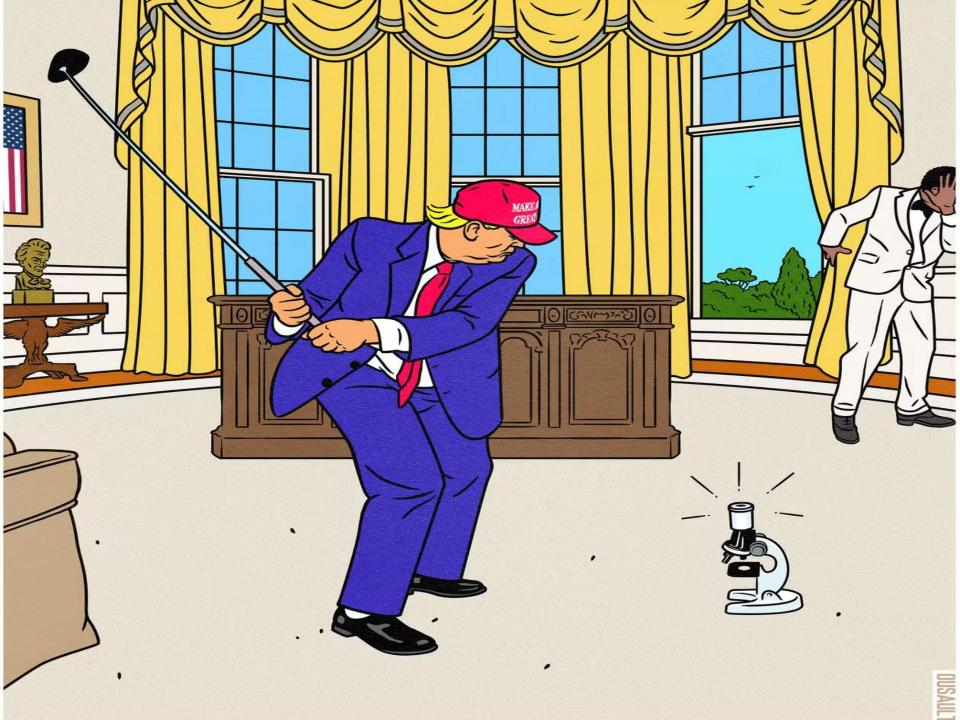


Impact of the backlash JAMIL SALMI ertiary Education Expert



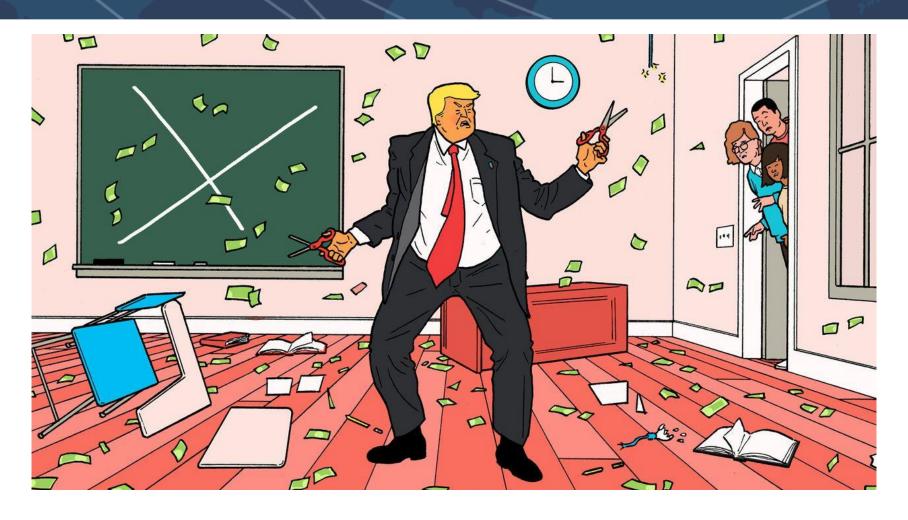
- Academic freedom
- Institutional autonomy
- Independence of accreditation
- Fear and hostility





Trump vs. Harvard





Impact of the backlash JAMIL SALMI ertiary Education Expert



- Academic freedom
- Institutional autonomy
- Independence of accreditation
- Fear and hostility
- Prestige and attractivity
- Equity "hallucinations"











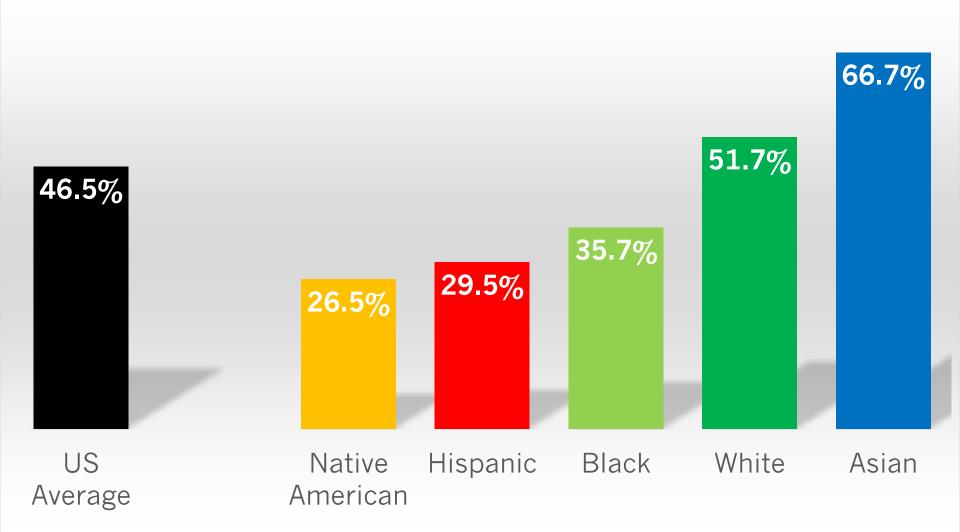
Resisting the backlash



- Pushing back through democratic processes
- Leveraging acquired legal commitments
- Indirect consideration of access barriers
- Alternative modes of resistance
- Framing a strong body of evidence

Attainment in the US





Meritocracy, a century later JAMIL SALMI



- Oxford and Cambridge: 18% of first-generation students compared to 48% UK-wide
- No change at elite US colleges, still more students from the top 1% than from the bottom 60%
- Contrast of community colleges, where 39% of students are first-generation and 59% attending part time while working full time

Resisting the backlash through QA



- Present equity as a quality imperative (excellence with inclusion)
- Show evidence that diversity boosts critical thinking and academic performance
- Embed inclusion in Core Quality Standards
- Link equity to broader institutional goals (SDGs)

Fear or Hope?



Hope or fear?



"The nature of reality is itself in deep dispute"
Michelle Goldberg (opinion columnist)

"What's past is prologue;
What to come, in yours and my discharge."
William Shakespeare – (the Tempest)