

Resistances

CLADS PRESENTATION

The Collective for academic freedom, democracy and solidarity (CLADS) is a non-profit association, founded on 11 December 2024. It brings together staff from the University of Lausanne, the EPFL and other tertiary institutions in the Canton of Vaud. It respects the principles of the University of Lausanne Charter and the EPFL Ethics Charter. It is based on an understanding of the University that is democratic in operation, open in access, critical in the construction of knowledge, opposed to all forms of discrimination, supportive and respectful of human rights and international law, and free from repression of these rights.

MAPPING SOLIDARITIES, REPRESSIONS AND RESISTANCES ***A collective “états des lieux” of pro-Palestinian mobilizations and their aftermaths in Swiss universities.***

The year 2024 was marked by unprecedented mobilizations by university students and staff calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and pressing their institutions to divest from Israel's academic institutions and industries. In Switzerland, as elsewhere in the world, mobilizations took the form of assemblies, encampments, protests, reports, open letters, conferences, discussions, publications, and many more creative actions. Students and staff upheld the university's foundational purpose and role as a space for collective learning, critical thinking and academic freedom. Some of those initiatives were also met with repression, threats, and intimidation within and outside Swiss universities.

While this situation is ongoing in different parts of the country, several forms of resistance are being constructed to shed light on the practices of academic institutions and to support affected people. These different mobilizations have exemplified the necessity to come together to think about the roles and impacts of universities in our societies, for defending academic freedom and resisting repression. These mobilizations have also initiated some positive changes and proposals for openness on the part of certain institutions, in contrast to the repressive strategy initially adopted.

In this context, CLADS is organizing an event bringing together students and staff from Swiss universities to share and think about experiences of solidarities, repressions and resistances over this last year. Thought of as a collective état des lieux, it aims at collecting the experiences of mobilizations, institutional advancements and repression in Swiss universities, but also to reflect on forms of continuous resistance and dialog that can be built to further solidarity, democracy and academic freedom.

The event unfolds in two distinct parts:

- I. **Closed-doors workshops**
- II. **Public conference**

RETROPLANNING

01.07 - 08.08 : Open call for workshops proposals (see details pages 4&5)

08.08 - 20.08 : Workshop proposal reviews and follow up by CLADS.

Optional zoom meetings between organizers and CLADS members to support the development of workshop proposals if needed

20.08 - 30.08 : Finalization content and program

01.09 - 04.10 : Public launch of program and registration for workshops

04.10 : Event Day !

PROGRAM

Part I (12:00-18:00) Closed-doors Workshops

Registration in advance and Chatham house rule

12:00-12:30: Welcome - Opening words by CLADS

12:30-13:30: Collective lunch

13:30-16:00: Workshop sessions on proposed themes

During this session – according to their choice made in advance – registered participants will split into workshop groups. The aim of those workshops is to propose reflexive and safe spaces to discuss issues and experiences of mobilisation and repression as well as to collectively reflect on potentials of working on and organising around those issues. Workshops will be constituted by participants (number tbd depending on each format), organizers who will have prepared in advance the workshop's content and format and note takers who will record the moment and provide a report during the plenary.

**16:00-16:30:
Break & snacks**

16:30-18:00: Plenary: collective feedbacks and exchange

The plenary will provide a collective moment of exchange where all the participants will get together after their respective workshop sessions. One representative per group will provide a summary of the exchanges, potential answers to questions posed in advance and raise points of discussion. During this part, detailed notes will be taken CLADS members to have minutes and concrete avenues of work/organisation. Guiding questions will be provided in advance and reflected upon during each workshop. This will help steer the plenary session through common themes.

18:00-18:30: Break & snacks

Part II (18:30-20:00) - Public Conference

No registration needed

18:30-20:00: “Mapping Solidarity, Repression and Resistance”

The second part of the event is a public conference that aims at providing a comprehensive overview of what unfolded in Universities all over Switzerland during and after mobilizations. A presentation will be shared and discussed by a variety of speakers from various university bodies, students' national coalition, members of the CLADS and International Law Jurist Paola Salwan Daher. The core content is based on reports and data from university events, gathered, analysed and synthesized in advance by the CLADS.

PART I: DETAILS & OPEN CALL

The first part of this event aims at bringing together staff and students from Swiss Universities and other third degree institutions to exchange, reflect and organise on pressing issues related to solidarities, repressions and resistances in the context of pro-Palestinian mobilisation.

This part is organised in working groups (number of participants TBD) focusing on specific themes moderated by the working group organiser(s) and guided by common questions. To help ensure a trusted and safe space for everyone, participation in this working session requires registration and follows the Chatham House Rule. The working group discussions will be followed by a plenary feedback session.

For each workshop / working group:

During the event, workshop organizers will lead their session, with the support of members of the CLADS if needed. They will have prepared in advance the working group's content and format. They would have shared some preparation material in advance of the sessions. A reporter will take notes on the discussions and report ideas during the plenary. Working groups can organise their time freely. We encourage starting with a roundtable presentation. Plan enough time to tackle the different guiding questions, and dedicate about 30 min to prepare a summary of the group's reflection and work to be shared in plenary.

We see the organization of the event as an opportunity to initiate collective reflection, exchange. We thus would like to invite you to not only participate in the event but to construct it with us, through the proposition and organization of workshops for the Part I of the event.

Examples of possible themes

- **Observatory**: Documenting repression through a collaborative online archive
- **Coalition-Building**: Discussing experiences within sustained struggles, identifying facilitators and barriers intra and inter-groups
- **Legal Tools**: Building defence/offence against institutional repressions and outside attacks
- **Media and Public Relations**: Developing strategies to communicate academic research and information in media
- **Institutional Advancements and Negotiations**: Mapping changes post-mobilisation and constructing strategies for advancement
- **History of Mobilisation**: Thinking of a long(er) history of mobilisations in Swiss Universities

DISCLAIMER

These are all propositions that can be taken upon and reinterpreted. Feel free to propose other themes/ content/ formats that might be of interest to you and that you would like to explore in this time-space. We encourage you to be creative and imagine various formats of exchange, not limited to simple roundtable discussions.

Call for Workshops

(01.07 - 08.08 : Open call Period for workshops proposals)

Workshop proposals can be sent to asso-clads@proton.me. They should contain the following information (2 pages max):

- organizers full name and email contact
- workshop session title
- description aim / goals
- envisioned output / outcome of the workshop
- description format / script
- ideal number of participants & potential person interested
- list resources provided in advance to participants (if applicable)
- things asked to participants, to prepare the workshop in advance (if applicable)
- request for meeting to develop the workshop (if applicable, propose 3 time slots after 08.08)
- any other information, external resource or example is welcome

Workshop session title:

Observatoire: Documenting repression through a collaborative online archive

Description aim / goals / output:

The aim of this session is to build the foundations of a project of a collaborative online archive which will compile instances of repression related to solidarity towards the Palestinian people in Swiss Universities and third-degree institutions. The goals of this workshop is to:

- Gather people interested in developing a Swiss wide network to work on this project, its development and diffusion in the future
- Present & Discuss the work in progress initiated at UNIL & EPFL by the CLADS
- Reflect on the format of this archive, how it is fed, what is included, excluded, etc.
- Gather additional data on instances of repression (before?)
- Think of the potential projective uses of such archive/platform

Envisioned Output / outcome of the workshop

Enlargement of working group on the index
Clear plan of content of the archive
Next steps and agenda for the archive formulated

Description Format / script :

The session will unfold according to the following format:

- **(13:30 - 13:45) Roundtable presentation of participants**
- **(13:45 - 14:15) Organizers input and Q/A**
- The organizers (CLADS members) will present their ongoing work on developing an indexing methodology for instances of repression. They will share with the participants their reflections, questions and doubts on such an archive / platform. These will feed into the second part of the session.
- **(14:15 - 15:30) work session on material - tbd**
- **(15:30 - 16:00) Summary Preparation for the Plenary**

Ideal number of participants & possible interest: 15

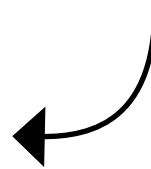
Ressources sent to participants in advance:

- Data gathering call
- Database (confidential – participants should not disclose it before publication)
- Some existing references of index / archive
- Open Questions

Things asked to prepare in advance by participants:

We asked participants to reflect on the form and use of the archive. We would like to bring any optional : documented cases of repression (based on personal experiences, news articles, etc.)

Example of proposal:



PART II: DETAILS & OPEN CALL

The second part of the event is a public conference that aims at providing a comprehensive overview of what unfolded in Universities all over Switzerland during and after mobilizations. A presentation will be shared and discussed by a variety of speakers from various university bodies, the students national coalition, members of the CLADS and International Law Jurist Paola Salwan Daher. The core content will be based on reports and data from university events, gathered, analysed and synthesized in advance by the CLADS.

Call for Data

In preparation of the conference and inspired by the model, methodologies and visual tools of ELSC, Forensis/Forensic Architecture's Index of Repression, we will produce a first summary of what has happened during and after pro-Palestinian mobilisations in Swiss tertiary institutions.

To do so, we need your help. We invite you to share information and data via email to asso-clads@proton.me. ***We ensure anonymity and confidentiality in the sharing of information. Please also contact us directly if you need a secured way of sharing larger data.***

We are particularly interested in any information or data that may help establish the history and state of play of your local mobilizations and their aftermaths. This notably includes:

- Stories of mobilisations, solidarities and repressions
- Official or unofficial reports on research ethics, collaborations or occupations
- Photos or videos of mobilisations and state interventions on campuses
- Archives of documents produced (montages, posters, signes etc.)
- Political debates related to campuses mobilisations
- Cases of repressions towards staff, students, and other members of tertiary institutions
- etc.