Contents

List of Abbreviations —— XI
Preface — XIII
Chapter One Setting the Context: Academic Freedom and Hungarian Society — 1 Defining Academic Freedom — 1 The Historic Development of Academic Freedom — 3 Liberalism, Commodification and Audit Culture — 6 Populism and Culture War — 11 Authoritarianism in Hungary — 15 Higher Education in Hungary — 21 Outline of the Book — 27
Chapter Two Reflections, Resilience, and Dignity —— 29 Reflexivity and Dialogue —— 29 An Englishman Abroad —— 30 The Covid Pandemic —— 40 Resilience and Dignity —— 47 Academic Dissent —— 49
Chapter Three The Central European University and the Quest for an Open Society — 52 The Lex CEU — 53 The Rationale for the Lex CEU — 56 Resistance — 57 Voices of Dissent — 60 Transforming the Ivory Tower — 67 Conclusion — 74
Chapter Four Gender Studies and Culture War —— 75

Revoking Gender Studies Degrees --- 76

The Conservative Cultural Revolution — 79

The Moral Crusade on Gender and the Family --- 77



Voices of Dissent 82
The Need for Painful and Distressing Conversations —— 91
Chapter Five
The Hungarian Academy of Sciences: The Triad of Academia, the State and
Business — 96
History of the Academy — 96
Reform of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences — 98
The Rationale behind Reform —— 99
Resistance —— 102
Voices of Dissent — 103
Politics, Business, and Science —— 110 The Public and the Popularisation of Science and Culture —— 116
The Public and the Popularisation of Science and Culture —— 116 HAS and National Identity —— 117
Chapter Six
The Corvinus: Privatisation and Audit Culture —— 121
The Model Change —— 122
Voices of Dissent —— 128
The Neoliberal University —— 134
Chapter Seven
'Free SZFE': Resistance at the University of Theatre and Film Arts —— 139
Takeover —— 140
'Free SZFE': Strategy and Tactics —— 143
Dissenting Voices —— 148
Insights into 'Free SZFE' —— 155
Chapter Eight
Critical Reflections on the Past, Present and Future —— 160
Experiences of education in Communist Hungary —— 160
Life in Hungary as a Critical Thinker —— 162
The Challenge for Sociology and Critical Thinking in Hungary in the Twen
ty-First Century —— 167
Conclusion —— 172

Chapter Nine

Conclusion: Speaking Truth to Power — 173

Protecting Academic Freedom —— 173

Culture War and the Academy —— 177

Challenging Academic Capitalism —— 180
Transforming the Academy —— 182
Transforming Society —— 186
What Next? —— 191

Andras L. Pap: Afterword In Search of (Lost) Freedom - 194

Bibliography —— 202

Index —— 229