

France Stands Up For Science in solidarity with the United States

On March 7, 2025, the Stand Up for Science movement in France united between 13,000 and 16,000 individuals across nearly 40 cities in a display of solidarity with scientists confronting escalating threats to academic freedom in the United States, Argentina, and beyond. The Stand Up for Science movement resonated strongly in France. This mobilization of scientists and citizens mirrors its American counterpart, serving simultaneously as an act of support and as a reminder that undermining science weakens democracy.

In Paris, 5,100 people marched through the picturesque Latin Quarter, bearing signs in French and English with messages such as "Science, not silence," "Scientists support scientists," "Make science great again," "In Solidarity," and "Science saves lives," demonstrating solidarity with American scientists. Led by students and early-career scientists carrying the Stand Up for Science France banner, the crowd was invigorated by the sunny weather and the rhythmic beats of a student brass band, echoing chants of resistance, including renditions of Bella Ciao. Similar rallies were held in major university cities across France, including Toulouse (2,000 participants), Lyon (250), Marseille (750), Strasbourg (300), Montpellier (800), Bordeaux (150), Nancy (150), and others, illustrating the widespread French mobilization for science and against censorship. Beyond the streets, acts of protest took creative forms, such as a team of scientists holding a Stand Up For Science sign in front of the Paleolithic paintings of the famous Chauvet cave.

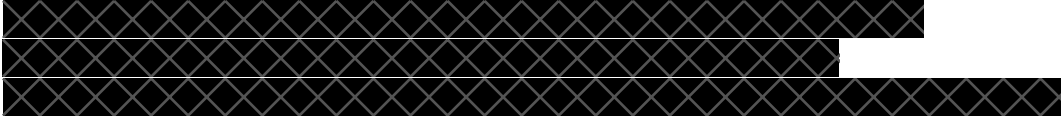
During roundtable discussions, renowned researchers across disciplines outlined how actions taken by the Trump and Milei administrations have already harmed research in sociology, medicine, climate science, biodiversity, and other scientific fields—not only in the U.S. and Argentina but globally, due to the international collaborative nature of research. One speaker's comment on the gravity of the moment, "We must take care of our institutions, even when they do not take care of us", resonated with the others who recognized that attacks on science are rarely isolated and often lead to democratic backsliding. One roundtable addressed the specific threats against sustainability sciences, including social and environmental sciences, which are particularly at risk because they document the limits and dangers of unbridled libertarian politics. Discussions also focused on concrete actions to counter anti-science rhetoric in France, prevent similar threats from taking root, and support foreign scientists facing censorship and loss of livelihoods. Measures include securing European backups of at-risk research data and creating job opportunities in France for scientists in need.

Stand Up for Science France first began as a grassroots movement and has garnered broad institutional support from the French Academy of Sciences, the CNRS, unions, several universities and institutions—a rare display of unity reflecting the gravity of the moment. The events have raised awareness of the breadth, depth, and brutality of the current attacks on science in the U.S. and Argentina. Although the French movement was initiated in international solidarity to express concerns about recent restrictions on freedom of expression and academic freedoms in the U.S. and Argentina, many voiced concerns about the situation at home. Stand Up For Science France aims to foster a conversation on the

value of science for society and to find sustainable ways to protect science and scientists at the French, European, and global levels.

Contacts :

Website: <https://standupforscience.fr/>



Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc



Campus Montpellier



March in Toulouse



Collège de France, Paris



Institut Pasteur, Paris



March in Paris, near Sorbonne University



Rally in Nantes