

Censorship, Surveillance and Indoctrination at Leicester University

Corrupting Young Minds, Cloning Political Scientists and
Manufacturing Consent

Kevin Mugur Galalae

April 2010

Leicester University cooperates with Britain's secret service agencies and the Qatar Foundation in a covert surveillance and censorship (SAC) program of the academic environment. This appeal document was submitted to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA/09223/10) by Kevin Mugur Galalae.

Kevin Galalae vs. Leicester University

26 April 2010

On the 18th of November 2009, eight weeks into the first ten-week module of the Masters in International Relations and Global Order programme of Leicester University, I, Kevin Galalae, was forced to withdraw from the programme.

Mr. Nick Wright, the course tutor, and Dr. Simon Rofe, the course supervisor, deliberately marked down my assignments as soon as it became obvious that my socio-political analyses and my political philosophy clashed with the dictates of CONTEST – *The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism*.

My attempts to seek a fair evaluation of my work and a persecution-free environment for my contributions to the discussion forums went unheeded. Several adjudicators refused to admit any bias in the way my assignments and work were evaluated by the course tutor and his colleagues, despite their flagrant lack of objectivity and fairness. This was the university's way to show me the door without openly expelling me from the course, which would have exposed the university to easily provable accusations of censorship.

At first, I thought that Leicester University's department of political science and international relations is narrow and ideological and does not tolerate dissenting views. In time, however, I came to understand that the prerogatives of CONTEST – *The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism* – trump academic freedom and are used to purge Leicester University's academic environment of ideas that are deemed to threaten Britain's "*shared values*" and "*community cohesion*".

As a result, Britain's secret service agencies have infiltrated the program I attended – and no doubt many others – for the purpose of censorship, control, and surveillance of the academic discourse. I identified Carla Liuzzo as the student in my course who is a covert secret service agent. Thus co-opted by the government of Britain to collaborate in spying on and censoring its students, Leicester University has accepted the presence of government agents who are embedded in courses while masquerading as regular students but who work with the course tutors to carry out the goals of CONTEST, goals that are antithetical to the pursuit of knowledge in an environment where academic freedom is supposed to be sacrosanct.

Once it became clear that regardless which adjudication body at Leicester University looks into my case I could neither expect fairness and justice nor a recognition of bias, I resolved to get my tuition fees reimbursed and then seek redress with the OIA and the EHRC.

I believe the initial mistreatment and all subsequent verdicts passed by Leicester's adjudicators reflect deep prejudice towards the socio-political ideas and ideals I have expressed and contempt for freedom of speech and thought as well as for the sanctity of the academic environment.

The following is an account of the proceedings. It has taken me a great deal of time and effort to present it as clearly and honestly as possible. The evidence speaks for itself. It is my hope that your organization will be able to analyse the facts without bias and thus render an objective decision.

Sincerely,

Kevin Galalae

THE PROTAGONISTS

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Carla M. Liuzzo – student and secret service agent

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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

16 August 2009

The ten-week-long Post Cold War Order module begins.

30 October 2009

My e-tivity 3 (see File 1) is marked down and I attempt to first have it marked fairly and then to be allowed to resubmit by writing to Mr. Nick Wright, the course tutor, who refuses both requests (see File 2).

10 November 2009

In response to observations made by Nick Wright about my e-tivity 3 and to his criticism of some of my forum posts, I write to him to express my hope that Leicester will not use the length of the posts as a subtle method of censorship, as Oxford has, and to seek confirmation that Leicester respects freedom of expression and the sanctity of the academic environment (see File 3). Dr. Rofe replies (see File 4) after Nick Wright forwards my concern to him (see File 5).

My e-tivity 4 (see File 6) is ravaged by Nick Wright and James Hamill. The lack of fairness with which my e-tivity 3 and 4 have been marked stands in stark contrast with the way my e-tivity 2 was marked (see File 33).

17 November 2009

I take issue with Nick Wright's interpretation of my posts on Al-Qaeda and with his criticism of my intellectual integrity (see File 7).

18 November 2009

Instead of receiving an apology from Nick Wright, Dr. Rofe sends me a threatening letter and an ultimatum that I alter my post (see File 8).

I withdraw from the forum discussions in protest to the tutor's attempt to censor the debate by conveniently changing the subject to one that is off the week's topic (see File 9).

19 November 2009

I make a last ditch effort to seek fairness from Leicester in the way my assignments are evaluated by writing to Dr. Rofe only to be disappointed (see File 10).

30 November 2009

By supporting the fiction that my e-tivities were marked fairly, Dr. Rofe gives me the unmistakable signal that I am no longer welcome in the program. I therefore post an explanation on the week's forum of my decision to quit the program and ask for a refund (see File 11).

Unable to receive a refund I ask to be allowed to finish the module. Dr. Rofe, however, instructs me to complete the e-tivities but denies me access to the forums and course website which makes it impossible for me to study thus, once again, showing his true colours (see File 12).

1 December 2009

Carla Liuzzo, a fellow student, sends me an email in which she attempts to persuade me to finish the module and takes issue with the fact that I posted my letter to Dr. Rofe publicly on the week's forum (see File 15). Since her behaviour reminds me of that of Ivor Middleton (see Ref: OIA/09223/10), from Oxford, this leads me to suspect that Mrs. Liuzzo is more than just a student and I confront her with questions of her true identity (see File 16).

2 December 2009

Fed up with Leicester's underhanded methods, I let Dr. Rofe know in no uncertain terms that should I not receive a full refund I will pursue the matter to the highest adjudication body within the university and beyond (see File 13). He replies that it is beyond his authority to grant me a full refund (see File 14).

6 December 2009

I appeal to Professor Phythian (see Files 17 & 18), as instructed by Mrs. Masterman (see File 19).

4 January 2010

Professor Phythian upholds the decisions of his colleagues and refuses to grant me a full refund (see File 20).

I appeal to Professor Murphy (see Files 21 & 22).

1 February 2010

Professor Murphy renders her verdict (see File 23).

12 February 2010

I attempt to appeal to the next adjudicating body, the Academic Registrar (see File 25), as instructed by the university should I be unhappy with Professor Murphy's decision (see File 24).

15 February 2010

Leicester's Information Officer, Mr. Geoff Hamp, responds to my request for information about Carla Liuzzo (see File 32).

17 February 2010

My attempt to appeal to the Academic Registrar is rejected and Leicester University informs me that no further appeal avenue is open to me. Leicester also threatens me with legal action if I continue to communicate my findings to my fellow students (see File 26).

23 February 2010

I make my 1st request for a Completion of Procedures Letter, but it is ignored (see File 27).

2 March 2010

I make my 2nd request for a Completion of Procedures Letter, but it too is ignored (see File 28).

3 March 2010

Leicester's Information Officer, Mr. Geoff Hamp, responds to my second request for information (see File 34).

Unhappy with Mr. Hamp's reply, I seek information from his superior, Mr. Atkinson (see File 35). On the 8th of March, I expand my request for information (see File 36). In the absence of a sign of life from Mr. Atkinson, on the 18th of March I make my request for information formal (see File 37).

30 March 2010

Mr. Atkinson responds to my requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (see File 38).

31 March 2010

I give Leicester one week to do the right thing before I take my case to the OIA (see File 29). My plea, however, remains unanswered.

3 April 2010

I request for permission from Leicester University to stage a hunger strike on its campus (see File 30).

8 April 2010

Leicester refuses to grant me permission to stage a hunger strike on its campus and warns me that should I attempt to stage a hunger strike on its campus I will be chased away by the police (see File 31).

APPEAL

The series of events I have outlined above and the evidence I have presented show that Leicester University is collaborating with Britain's secret service agencies to carry out the objectives of CONTEST (see File 39) and that the unfair manner in which my last two e-tivities were marked and some of my forum contributions criticized were part of a deliberate attempt to get me to quit the programme once it became evident to Mr. Wright and Dr. Rofe that I would not be easily persuaded to toe the politically correct line, that is conform to the dictates of CONTEST.

In order to cover up the presence of embedded secret service agents in the course (which I have identified) and the university's collaboration with the government's agenda of academic censorship (to which I fell victim), Leicester's officials and academics have lied on record, thus prejudicing not only the academic integrity of the programme but also the impartiality of the adjudication system meant to address my grievances.

Close scrutiny of the course forums show that Carla Liuzzo, the secret service agent that masquerades as a student at Leicester, and Nick Wright, the course tutor, have attempted to control the discussions by suppressing opinions that run counter to the dictates of CONTEST. When they could not do so successfully with me, they used the assessment of my e-tivities to run me out of the program, while on the surface maintaining the appearance that I am most welcome to stay.

The questions asked in the course have been politicized by the requirements of CONTEST, and the answers given by students are being used to judge students according to their loyalty to the system and their willingness to abstain from criticizing Britain's foreign and domestic policies. Dissenting opinions are treated as attacks on Britain's "*shared values*" and "*community cohesion*" (see CONTEST). As a result, covert censorship is now the order of the day at Leicester University. This violates privacy laws, human rights law, and education law, as enshrined in British, European and international conventions.

Given that Leicester University has not disclosed its participation in CONTEST when I applied to be accepted into its Masters in International Relations and Global Order program, that the socio-political opinions I expressed in the forums were prejudiced against because they offended government censors, that my assignments were increasingly subjected to unfair evaluation designed to get me to quit the program of my own volition, that the internal adjudication system has been corrupted by the need to conceal the existence of CONTEST at Leicester, and that in being forced out of the program I was deprived of my last opportunity to fulfill the life-long dream of obtaining a graduate degree in International Relations (opportunity which I could have fulfilled at the other two universities I had been accepted to, namely the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna's Master of Advanced International Studies (see File 40) and the Fletcher School of Law

and Diplomacy at Tufts University), I seek full damages from Leicester University and/or the British Government.

I did not sign up to a graduate program that is subject to government scrutiny and where government agents have the ultimate say in what is discussed and when, what can be said and what cannot, and who stays in the program and who doesn't.

As a foreign citizen and non-resident of Britain, I am under no obligation to abstain from expressing ideas, values and ideals that offend the British political establishment. Besides, even if I knew what those were, I would not censor myself in order to conform to a view of the world that is alien to my experience, intellect and culture. If Leicester cannot accept diversity and tolerate criticism of Britain and British policies, then it should not have the right to teach foreign students. In the very least, it should inform students that the integrity of its academic environment is secondary to the dictates of CONTEST.

It should also inform students that secret service agents act as co-tutors and have the authority to override the decisions of the course tutor and to expel students whose political expressions they deem dangerous to the British social fabric.

Leicester cannot have it both ways; it cannot purport to offer a free academic environment while at the same time accommodating secret agents with secret agendas in its programmes and deferring vital decisions and executive authority to them. This makes a mockery of the sanctity of the academic environment, breaches students' trust, and is deeply unethical and unlawful on many fronts.

I hope the OIA will have the courage and the integrity to condemn Leicester for the abuse it has subjected me to and for the way in which it has corrupted the delivery and outcome of education. Both trespasses are reprehensible and unforgiveable. As a distant observer, I shudder at the lack of courage and integrity at Leicester among both its academics and officials. And given my experience so far with the British press, civil society and the institutions that are supposed to safeguard the democratic process and the balance of power in the United Kingdom, I am aghast at the resemblance between Ceausescu's Romania, which is the country of my birth and adolescence, and contemporary United Kingdom.

Sincerely,

Kevin Galalae