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'There is a climate of intimidation at British universities - we are afraid to speak about anything controversial'



Professor Jeff McMahan, who has set up the Journal of Controversial Ideas, a new, peer-reviewed publication dedicated to airing the kind of research that has recently seen academics no-platformed CREDIT: ANTONIO OLMOS/OBSERVER / EYEVINE

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By **Margaret Driscoll**
12 MAY 2019 • 4:00PM

When Professor Jeff McMahan [arrived in Oxford](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/university-of-oxford/), a chance conversation turned him off social media. A fellow philosophy lecturer was ruing the day he had agreed to be his grandson's "friend" on Facebook, then accepted requests from hordes of students. "I took that as a warning and never signed up," says McMahan.

He also steered clear of Twitter, which has probably served him well over the past few months as he has been setting up [the Journal of Controversial Ideas](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2018/11/12/controversial-ideas-journal-academics-can-publish-pseudonyms/), a new, peer-reviewed publication dedicated to airing the kind of research on race and intelligence, genetics and gender identity that has recently seen academics no-platformed and drummed out of their jobs.

Needless to say, the prospect...

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