

By-Laws of the  
ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL STUDIES (AIS) <sup>1</sup>

I. Purposes and Membership

A. Membership and Participation

The Association for Israel Studies is an international and scholarly society devoted to the academic and professional study of Israel. The Association is open to all individuals who are engaged in, or share an interest in, scholarly inquiry about the State and society of Israel. There are no restrictions with respect to either membership or full participation based on citizenship, nationality, religion, or political orientation. Nor are there any restrictions based on gender, race, ethnicity or age.

B. Activities

To further its purpose, the Association shall encourage, promote, and sponsor scholarly activities related to the study of Israel and its place in the world. These activities shall include, but not be limited to, meetings and conferences, research projects and scholarly investigations, and programs of publication and the diffusion of scholarly information.

C. Dues

Members of the Association shall pay annual dues, in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors and approved by AIS members at the annual General Assembly. At their discretion, the Board and the Association may also establish a category of membership for institutions. Dues shall be payable at the beginning of each calendar year through the association's website.<sup>2</sup>

II. Officers and Board of Directors

A. Officers

The officers of the Association shall include a President, Vice-president, Executive Director, Treasurer, and Editor and Associate Editors of the Israel Studies Review. The President and

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<sup>1</sup> As revised by the Board on June 22, 2014, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 24, 2014. As revised by the Board on May 31, 2009, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 3, 2009. As revised by the Board on May 31, 2015, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 2, 2015. As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> The General Assembly Meeting in 2008 approved a new dues scale as follows:

-Regular membership \$75

-Students \$25

- Independent scholars and retirees \$40

The General Assembly Meeting in 2014 approved a new dues scale as follows:

- Regular Membership \$100 (2015), \$120 (2016)

- Student Membership \$25 (include no hard copy subscription for the ISR)

- Retirees and independent scholars will be offered optional appropriated rates of 20% and 50% discount respectively.

Vice-president are elected for a two-year term. The treasurer, editor and associate editor are elected for a renewable four year term. All officers serve *ex officio* on the Board of Directors.

#### B. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be composed of eighteen individuals elected for renewable two-year terms. Board members shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Past board members who have not served on the Board of Directors for at least four years may be re-elected and serve up to two additional two-year terms.

Each President of the Association, upon completion of his or her term of office, shall automatically continue as a member of the Board of Directors for six years.

Members of the Board shall serve contingent upon good behavior.<sup>3</sup>

Upon the resignation of a member of the Board, or if a member is unable to perform his/her duties, the President shall nominate and the Board shall advise and confirm an interim appointment to replace the said member. Interim membership shall expire upon election of the next Board.<sup>4</sup>

In each election's cycle at least one nominee will be a member who received their PhD during the last five years before being nominated to the Board, and has been an active member of the AIS for at last three years before being nominated to the Board.<sup>5</sup>

#### C. Elections

Elections for officers and board members shall take place at an annual General Assembly, chaired by the President and convened at the Association's annual conference. All AIS members attending this meeting shall be eligible to vote in these elections. All officers will be elected by a majority of votes among those attending the General Assembly.

Prior to the General Assembly, a nominating committee appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors shall present a list of candidates for officers and board members.<sup>6</sup> In composing this list of nominees, the nominating committee shall seek the advice of the President and the Vice President.<sup>7</sup>

#### D. Responsibilities

The President shall appoint the members of the standing and ad hoc committees of the Association and shall assume overall administrative responsibility for AIS activities during his or her term of office. The President shall submit regular reports to the Board of Directors and to the membership of the Association.

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<sup>3</sup> Approved by the membership on June 14, 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Approved by the membership on June 14, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

<sup>6</sup> On May 23rd, 1999 the board unanimously decided that the nominating committee will advertise its search for nominees to the AIS board and other AIS officers in a prominent place in the Israel Studies Forum /Review , on the AIS website and through e-mail to the membership, so as to maximize members' participation in the election process.

<sup>7</sup> As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

The Vice-President shall assume primary responsibility for fundraising, long range planning, the overall publication program of the Association, and other tasks as may be agreed upon with the President.

The Executive Director shall assume the role of a webmaster, planning the AIS routine activities, helping the organizers of the annual meeting to prepare and run the meeting, handling requests and questions from members, and prepare board meetings.<sup>8</sup>

The Treasurer shall keep records pertaining to membership. The Treasurer shall also administer funds received from membership dues and other sources and make disbursements on behalf of the Association. He or she shall regularly report to the Board and the Association on matters pertaining to membership and finance. The expenditure of funds from the AIS treasury shall require the approval of the Treasurer and either the President or the Vice-President.

The Editor in Chief of the Israel Studies Review represents the AIS before the commercial publisher of the Israel Studies Review. The Editor in Chief is accountable to the Board of Directors and shall present a report about the Israel Studies Review to the Board of Directors once a year.

The Board of Directors shall act as the Association's decision-making body during the period between annual meetings. Policies and actions proposed by the President, or by any member of the Association, shall require the agreement of a majority of members of the Board of Directors.

### III. Annual Conference

#### A. Time and Place

The Association for Israel Studies shall endeavor to hold an academic conference each year. The time and place of this meeting shall be determined by the President in consultation with the Board of Directors.

#### B. Conference Program

The conference shall include panels organized for the presentation of relevant scholarship from any academic discipline and shall, to the extent possible, include reports of research in many different disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. The annual conference may also feature a limited number of workshops and round-table sessions at which current issues affecting Israel are discussed.

All presentations made at panels, workshops, round-table and other official sessions of the annual conference shall be academic in character. These presentations shall be subject to public scholarly commentary by appropriate chairs and discussants and by other conference participants.

#### C. Planning

A program committee appointed by the President shall plan the conference. The President and the Treasurer of the Association shall serve as ex officio members of this committee, which will have final authority for decisions relating to the structure and content of panels and workshops.

If appropriate, a second planning committee, charged with assuming responsibility for local arrangements, shall also be appointed by the President.

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<sup>8</sup> As revised by the Board on May 31, 2015, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 2, 2015.

#### D. Other Conferences

The Association may from time to time hold other general or specialized conferences. When appropriate, these conferences may be organized in association with other academic and scholarly societies.

### IV. Annual General Assembly

#### A. Attendance and Participation

An annual General Assembly, to be chaired by the President of the Association, shall be convened at the annual conference of the Association for Israel Studies. All members in good standing shall be eligible to attend this meeting and take part in its deliberations. With the approval of a majority of the members present, others may also attend the meeting, although these individuals shall not have the right to vote.

#### B. Agendas and Business

The agenda for the annual General Assembly shall be determined by the President of the Association.

The President shall submit a formal report at the annual General Assembly. Proposals contained in this report, which will summarize plans for the coming year as well as activities during the preceding year, shall be implemented only if approved by a majority of the members present.

During new business, additional proposals for discussion and consideration may be introduced by any member of the Association attending the annual General Assembly. Proposals shall be implemented if approved by a majority of the members present.

#### C. Reconsideration of Previous Decisions

Any member attending the annual General Assembly shall have the right to express opposition to a previous decision made by the Board of Directors, or to a decision made by the membership of the Association at a previous annual meeting. If the expression of opposition is supported by a majority of the members present, the decision shall be repealed.

### V. Publications

#### A. Israel Studies Review

AIS will regularly publish and mail to its members the Israel Studies Review (ISR). In addition to news and announcements, the Israel Studies Review will contain book reviews and short articles that present information and analysis about Israel and report on relevant scholarship. Publication of scholarly articles shall be determined through peer review, monitored by the Editor-in-Chief.

The Israel Studies Review shall be an official organ of the Association and shall be designed to serve as a major vehicle of communication between AIS and its members. The Israel Studies Review shall be available to all AIS members, as well as to officers and board members, for the communication of pertinent information and announcements.

#### B. Other Publications

The Association shall also encourage and sponsor the publication of research and scholarly analysis dealing with contemporary Israel. Such publications may include books, monographs, and guest-edited issues of professional journals.

Publications sponsored by the AIS shall include *Israel Studies*, published twice a year by the University of Indiana Press and sponsored by the Ben Gurion Research Center (Sede-Boker, Israel) and the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (UK.) *Israel studies* is thus affiliated with the AIS and AIS members serve on its board

As appropriate, AIS shall also publish collections of papers presented at the Association's annual conference. Arrangements shall be made for these volumes to be published by a major academic press. In addition, AIS shall from time to time publish a directory of the research interests and activities of its members.

## VI. Prizes

### (1) The Yonatan Shapiro Award:

The AIS shall award an annual prize for the best book in Israel Studies published during the last calendar year. This award honors the memory of Yonathan Shapiro (1929-1997), one of Israel's most distinguished and influential sociologists, by recognizing outstanding scholarship in the history, politics, society and culture of Israel and pre-1948 Jewish Palestine.

The Shapiro Award Committee will consider books in either English or Hebrew, both in the social sciences and the humanities. Only research monographs (but not a collection of articles), will be considered. The prize committee will not consider books translated from Hebrew into English and vice versa, if the original book was published prior to the year of the competition. However, it will consider books first published in other languages and then published in English or Hebrew in the year of the competition. The committee will consider books by current AIS members only.

### (2) The Ben Halpern Award:

The AIS shall award an annual prize for the best doctoral dissertation in the various fields of Israeli studies. This award honors the memory of Ben Halpern, a founding member of the Board of Directors of the AIS. His book, *The Idea of the Jewish State*, is still seminal in the study of Zionism. An inspiring teacher at Brandeis University, Halpern left a powerful and distinctive intellectual legacy including a commitment to the study of Israeli society in accordance with rigorous scholarly and scientific norms.

Dissertations must be nominated by two scholars familiar with the candidate's work. Their recommendations should explain how the dissertation has advanced knowledge in the field of Israel Studies that includes the period before the state was established.

The committee will consider dissertations by current AIS members only.

### (3) The Baruch Kimmerling Award

The AIS shall award an annual prize for the best graduate student paper that was presented at its annual conference. This award honors the memory of Baruch Kimmerling (1939-2007), long a leading public intellectual and sociologist in Israel, who wrote and edited more than a dozen books on Israel and the Palestinians, introducing new perspectives for the understanding of Israeli society.

The winning paper will be published in the *Israel Studies Review*, pending acceptable revisions. The winner will be formally announced at the consecutive AIS conference

## VII. Affiliations

### A. Middle East Studies Association

The Association for Israel Studies is an affiliated member organization of the Middle East Studies Association of North American (MESA). It is authorized to participate in the work of MESA, through such activities as the organization of panels and workshops at the annual MESA conference.

### B. American Historical Association

The Association for Israel Studies is an affiliated member organization of the American Historical Association (AHA). It is authorized to participate in the work of AHA, through such activities as the organization of panels and workshops at the annual AHA conference.<sup>9</sup>

### C. Association for Jewish Studies

The Association for Israel Studies is an affiliated member organization of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). It is authorized to participate in the work of AJS, through such activities as the organization of panels and workshops at the annual AJS conference.<sup>10</sup>

### D. Other Affiliations

With approval by the Board of Directors and the membership of the Association, AIS may establish formal cooperative relationships with other scholarly societies and with universities and other academic institutions in the United States, Israel, and elsewhere.

All proposed institutional affiliations must be submitted for consideration to both the Board of Directors and the membership of the Association. In order to be established, a proposed affiliation must be agreed to by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors and by a majority of the members attending the annual General Assembly at which the proposal is considered.

All institutional affiliations shall be fully consistent with the scholarly purposes of the Association for Israel Studies. Further, AIS shall establish no affiliation that contravenes the provisions regarding non-discrimination in membership and participation set forth in Section I.A.

## VIII. Ratification and Amendment of the By-Laws

### A. Ratification

Ratification of these by-laws shall require approval by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors.

### B. Amendments

Additions and amendments to these by-laws may be proposed at any time by any member of the Board of Directors. Other AIS members wishing to propose an addition or amendment may either request that a member of the Board of Directors introduces the proposed change, or submit in support of the proposed change a petition signed by 10 members of the Association.

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<sup>9</sup> As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

<sup>10</sup> As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

Proposals for additions and amendments to the by-laws shall be submitted to the President of the Association, who, within a time period not to exceed six months, shall present them to the Board of Directors. If approved by a majority of the Board, these proposals shall be presented to the membership at the next annual meeting. If approved by a majority of the members at this meeting, the by-laws of the Association shall be modified as proposed.