By-Laws of the
ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL STUDIES (AIS) [1]

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 are 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.[2]

II. Officers, Board of Directors and Standing Committees

A. Officers

The Executive Committee of the Association will be composed of the President, the Vice-president and the Executive Director.[3] The President and Vice-president are elected for a two-year term. The officers of the association include the editors of the ISR and the executive committee.

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[1] 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.

[2] 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.

[3] As revised by the Board on June 25, 2023, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 27, 2023.

The Executive Committee of the AIS will employ the services of a professional Financial Manager. The financial manager's responsibilities are outlined in Section D (responsibilities). They will report to the Association's board on an annual basis at the summer board meeting, and will maintain ongoing communication with the Executive.

The President and Executive of the Association will maintain ongoing communication with the financial manager and will supervise the management of the Association's finances.[4]

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.

Appointment of past Presidents ex-officio to the board will be limited to four years.[5] Members of the Board shall serve contingent upon good behavior.[6]

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.[7]

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.[8]

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.[9] The nominating committee will advertise its search of nominees at least six months before the upcoming General Assembly.[10] In composing this list of nominees, the nominating committee shall seek the advice of the President and the Vice President.[11] The nominating committee will be chaired by the immediate Past President of the AIS.[12]

D. Responsibilities

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[4] The articles regarding the Financial Manager was adopted by the board on June 25, 2023 and approved by the General Assembly on June 27, 2023.

[5] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016.

[6] Approved by the membership on June 14, 2004.

[7] Approved by the membership on June 14, 2004.

[8] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

[9] 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.

[10] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016.

[11] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016.

[12] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016.

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.

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.[13]

The Financial Manager shall administer funds received from membership dues and other sources and make disbursements on behalf of the Association. They shall regularly report to the Board and the Association on matters pertaining to membership and finance, including an annual report at the summer board meeting. The expenditure of funds from the AIS treasury shall require the approval of either the President or the Vice-President of the Association.

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.

E. Academic Freedom Committee[14]

The Association shall maintain a standing committee on academic freedom. The committee will consist of five members who will be appointed by the President for renewable two-year terms. Committee members shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

As a standing committee of the AIS, the AFC will deal with issues that involve infringement on academic activity of AIS members or with policies and actions that threaten basic principles of academic freedom insofar as they affect the academic field of Israel Studies, including the freedom of students and scholars to interact, study and conduct research in or about Israel. Any member of the AIS may direct queries or requests directly to the chair of the AFC.

The AFC serves in an advisory capacity, and may make recommendations to the Executive regarding actions to be taken in a given case. Decisions on policy and actions ultimately lie with the Executive and Board of Directors, following consultation with the AFC.

The committee will present an annual report to the board and to the General Assembly at the annual meeting, and that report will be made available on the AIS website.

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.

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[13] As revised by the Board on May 31, 2015, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 2, 2015.

[14] The section regarding the Academic Freedom Committee was approved by the Board on June 25, 2023 and by the General Assembly on June 27, 2023.

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 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.

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.

Any member of the Association may request that the President of the Association add an item to the agenda of the General Assembly. Proposals for added items must be submitted for consideration to the President and the Board of the Association at least four weeks prior to the winter (mid-year) board meeting or six weeks prior to the annual meeting.

In order for such a proposed agenda item to be considered by the Board, it must be clearly formulated in 500 words or less, and must bear the signatures of at least five current AIS members. It is advisable that, when relevant, proposals be accompanied by supporting evidence to allow for serious consideration of the issue at hand.

To facilitate this process:

Members of the Board shall retain the right to propose agenda items to the President and the Board shall retain the right to determine (by majority vote) whether an issue is appropriate and/or relevant to be brought to the floor of the General Assembly.

If the proposed agenda item involves determination of an AIS stance on a particular issue, the Board will deliberate and propose a position to be voted on at the General Assembly.[15]

C. Reconsideration of Previous Decisions

(1) Any member attending the annual General Assembly shall have the right to express opposition to a previous decision made by the Board of Directors the previous day and brought to the general assembly for ratification.

(2) Any member attending the annual General Assembly shall have the right to raise an objection, in writing, 30 days before the convening of the General Assembly to a decision made by the General Assembly of the Association at a previous annual meeting. Any such proposed agenda item must be submitted to the President of the Association. The items must be clearly formulated in 500 words or less, and must bear the signatures of at least five current AIS members. It is advisable that, when relevant, proposals be accompanied by supporting evidence and/or reasoning to allow for serious consideration of the issue at hand.

(3) Decisions made by the Board, or previously ratified by the General Assembly may be overturned by a two-thirds majority attending the General Assembly.[16]

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 editor and associate editor are elected for a renewable four-year term. They serve *ex officio* on the Board of Directors.

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 the publication of research and scholarly analysis dealing with contemporary Israel. Such publications may include books, monographs, and guest-edited issues of professional journals.[17]

The Association shall include on its website a list of scholarly journals that are dedicated to the study of Israel, such as *Israel Studies*, *Israel Affairs*, and *Journal of Israeli History: Politics, Society,*

[15] Section B was revised by the Board on June 26, 2022, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 29, 2022.

[16] Section c was revised by the Board on June 26, 2022, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 29, 2022.

[17] This passage was revised by the Board on June 6, 2021 and approved by the General Assembly on June 8, 2021.

Culture. The Association will also periodically send to members an updated version of that list. The website and email announcement shall also mention special calls, opportunities and discounts offered to members of the AIS, Table of Contents of new issues, etc. of the journals on the list.[18]

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.

[18] This passage was revised by the Board on June 6, 2021 and approved by the General Assembly on June 8, 2021.

(4) Procedure for Changing Names of Awards[19]

A. A written request to change the name of an award shall be submitted to the AIS Executive at least one month prior to the Board meeting at which the proposed change is to be considered. Upon receipt of such a request, the AIS Executive shall place the proposed award-name change on the agenda of the next appropriate Board meeting. The AIS Executive shall ensure that ample time is allocated during the Board meeting for discussion of the proposed change. Following discussion, the Board shall conduct a formal vote on whether to recommend the proposed award-name change.

B. If approved by the Board, the proposal shall be placed on the agenda of the next General Assembly meeting. The AIS Executive shall ensure that ample time is allocated during the General Assembly meeting for discussion of the proposed change. Following discussion, the General Assembly shall conduct a formal vote on whether to approve the proposed award-name change. The change shall take effect only upon approval by the General Assembly.

VII. Affiliations

A. 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.[20]

B. 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.[21]

C. 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

[19] This article was accepted by the Board on August 16, 2026 and approved by the General Assembly on October 21, 2026.

[20] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

[21] As revised by the Board on June 19, 2016, and approved at the General Assembly Meeting on June 21, 2016

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.

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.