

Insaniyyat

Society of Palestinian Anthropologists

BYLAWS

I. Name

The Society will be known as Insaniyyat | The Society of Palestinian Anthropologists (“Insaniyyat”).

II. Purpose

The purpose of Insaniyyat is to provide an associational framework for Palestinian anthropologists and other scholars who support the goals and activities of Insaniyyat.

III. Goals

1. To encourage collective activities of Palestinian anthropologists in local, regional, and international academic contexts.
2. To promote anthropological inquiry and ethnographic research attuned to justice among Palestinian scholars and among non-Palestinian scholars of Palestinian society.
3. To support Palestinian anthropologists professionally by promoting their academic research and their access to academic forums and publishing locally, regionally, and internationally.
4. To support the development of anthropology as an academic discipline in the Arabic language and in Palestinian institutions of higher education.
5. To engage a wider Palestinian public in the production, discussion, and dissemination of anthropological enquiry.
6. To support the ethical conduct of anthropology by and about Palestinians.

IV. Membership

1. Membership in Insaniyyat is open to individuals who support the Purpose and Goals described in Articles II and III of these Bylaws and are committed to securing a viable Palestinian space within anthropology.
2. The Membership shall be composed of Core Members and Friend Members.
 - a. Core membership in Insaniyyat is open to Palestinians who are professionally employed or otherwise engaged in the discipline of anthropology and its cognate fields.
 - b. Friend membership is open to non-Palestinians engaged in the discipline of anthropology and its cognate fields whose academic work is on Palestine or Palestinians.
3. Applications for membership shall be reviewed when necessary by the Executive Board.
4. For just cause, a member may be deprived of membership by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, subject to appeal to the General Assembly.

V. Dues

1. The Executive Board shall determine the dues for Members of all categories.
2. Membership commences on the date of registration and expires one year from that date.
3. Any Member in arrears in the payment of dues shall lose all membership privileges.
“Arrears” is defined as failure to pay dues a full month after the expiration of membership.

VI. General Assembly meeting

1. The membership shall meet at least once every two years in a General Assembly meeting to conduct the business of Insaniyyat.
2. The place and date of the General Assembly meeting shall be determined by the Executive Board and communicated to the membership no later than sixty days prior to the first day of the meeting.
3. Quorum for the General Assembly meeting shall be twenty-five percent of all Core Members.
4. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be by simple majority vote among Core Members unless otherwise stipulated in these Bylaws and are binding on all members.

VII. Executive Board

1. The Executive Board of Insaniyyat will include seven elected members serving two-year terms.
2. The Executive Board may appoint additional members (“appointed members”) to serve until the next term.
3. The Executive Board shall consist of no more than eleven members. If possible, the total number of members shall be odd.
4. Only Core Members may serve on the Executive Board. Service on the Executive Board shall be limited to six consecutive years at a time.
5. The Executive Board shall decide on the distribution of offices. Members not holding a specific office are considered members at large.
6. The Executive Board will include the following permanent offices: President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
 - a. The President shall be the presiding officer of Insaniyyat and of the Executive Board and shall convene meetings of the Executive Board.
 - b. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the budget and finances of Insaniyyat and shall submit a draft budget and annual financial report to the Executive Board.
 - c. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining Insaniyyat’s membership list, for composing minutes of meetings of the Executive Board and General Assembly, and for keeping Insaniyyat’s archives and records
7. The Executive Board may create, abolish, or modify other offices as necessary.
8. Members of the Executive Board shall establish and make known their own rules and procedures, consistent with these Bylaws.

9. The Executive Board shall meet at least once per year. A majority of Executive Board members shall constitute quorum.
10. All members of the Executive Board shall have one vote. A majority vote is needed for decisions to become official by the Executive Board, except where otherwise stipulated in these Bylaws.
11. The Executive Board may appoint subordinate officers and constitute subcommittees or other entities within Insaniyyat to carry out Insaniyyat's programs.
12. The Executive Board shall report on Insaniyyat's activities during the previous biennial period at the General Assembly meeting. This report shall be distributed to all members of Insaniyyat.
13. All members of the Executive Board shall be responsible for maintaining appropriate records pertaining to their work and shall transfer them to the Executive Board upon the end of their service on the Executive Board.
14. The Executive Board shall appoint as soon as possible acting members to fill any vacancies arising among elected member positions. Acting members shall serve until the next term.

VIII. International Advisory Council

1. There shall be an International Advisory Council consisting of Core and/or Friend Members.
2. The International Advisory Council shall advise the Executive Board and assist Insaniyyat in achieving the goals expressed in Article III.
3. The composition of the International Advisory Council shall be determined by the Executive Board.

IX. Elections

1. Voting for the seven elected members of the Executive Board shall be conducted on a biennial basis, with results to be announced at the General Assembly meeting.
2. The seven candidates with the highest numbers of votes shall be elected to the Executive Board, subject to the provisions in this article.
3. At least one student shall be elected to the Executive Board, by reservation if necessary. If no student is nominated, then a student must be appointed to the Executive Board as soon as possible, in accordance with Article VII(2).
4. Elections shall be conducted and overseen by an Elections Group, whose three members shall be appointed by the Executive Board and shall not include any candidates running in the election. The Elections Group will also ensure that candidates fulfill the criteria stipulated in these Bylaws and may review the eligibility of any voter.
5. Only Core Members may nominate, be nominated, or vote in elections. Self-nominations are permitted.
6. Nominations shall be submitted to the Elections Group at least 30 days prior to the commencement of voting. The Elections Group shall distribute a list of all candidates to the membership at least 15 days prior to the commencement of voting.

7. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot and shall be held for a two-week period. Each Core Member shall be entitled to cast one ballot in any election or other balloting process described in these Bylaws.
8. Any tied votes shall be resolved by incoming elected members of the Executive Board.

X. Finances

1. The income from annual dues and from donations, investments, and other sources will be used to cover expenses for operating, publications, and other expenses consistent with the purposes of Insaniyyat.
2. No financial obligation in excess of funds available in the treasury shall be assumed by the Executive Board of Insaniyyat or any officer on behalf of Insaniyyat except for the purposes of Insaniyyat.

XI. Referenda

1. A referendum may be conducted at any time upon initiative of the Executive Board, or upon receipt by the Secretary of a petition signed by ten Core Members.
2. A referendum will pass if it receives a majority of total votes cast.

XII. Amendments

1. These Bylaws may be amended by Core Members, provided that a proposed amendment is approved by a minimum of two-thirds of the votes cast.
2. An Amendment may be proposed by the Executive Board or by a petition submitted to the Secretary signed by at least ten Core Members. The Executive Board shall circulate proposed amendments to all Core Members and will allow thirty days for the return of ballots.
3. Amendments shall take immediate effect upon adoption and shall supersede and nullify all previous amendments and provisions.

XIII. Dismissal of Executive Board Members

1. Members of the Executive Board shall be removed upon a vote by two-thirds of the Executive Board.
2. A vote by Core Members to remove members of the Executive Board shall be initiated upon a petition to any member of the Executive Board signed by at least ten Core Members. Voting on a petition of dismissal shall be open for thirty days and will take immediate effect if approved by two-thirds of votes cast.