

AAA Task Force on AAA Engagement on Israel/Palestine

Objective

As part of a more encompassing AAA effort to respond to members' interest in dialogue about the ongoing Israel/Palestine conflict, the Task Force is charged with helping the Executive Board consider the nature and extent to which AAA might contribute – as an Association -- to addressing the issues that the Israel/Palestine conflict raises. The Task Force will: 1) enumerate the issues embedded in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine that directly concern the Association. These issues may include, but are not limited to, the uses of anthropological research to support or challenge claims of territory and historicity; restrictions placed by government policy or practice on anthropologists' academic freedom; or commissioning anthropological research whose methods and/or aims may be inconsistent with the AAA statement of professional responsibilities; 2) develop principles to be used to assess whether the AAA has an interest in taking a stand on these issues; 3) provide such an assessment; 4) on the basis of that assessment, make recommendations to the Executive Board about actions the AAA could undertake.

Duration of Task Force: One year

Term of Office: One Year

Task Force Reports To: The President and Executive Board.

Responsibilities

- Enumerate the issues embedded in the conflict between Israel and Palestine that directly affect the Association.
- Develop principles to be used to assess whether the AAA has an interest in taking a stand on these issues. This may include providing a comprehensive and neutral overview of arguments for and against a range of specific possible stands (including no action).
- Apply these principles in completing an assessment of the nature and extent of AAA's interest in taking a specific stand on these issues.
- Assess whether the AAA has an interest in taking a specific stand on any broader but relevant issues that are raised in the context.
- Recommend a course of action (this may include no action) for the Association.

Membership and Appointment: Appointed by the President.
Chair: Don Brenneis (UC-Santa Cruz; AAA past president).

Executive Board liaison and member: Ramona Pérez (San Diego State U)
5-7 additional members, no two from the same university, none with publicly identified positions on the issue, most to have expertise in the region or in relevant subject areas.

Product: The Task Force will provide AAA with a written report of its findings no later than October 1, 2015.

Meetings and Schedule: By email, phone and face to face at the annual meeting.

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