

(Adopted April 1994.)

Association for Asian American Studies

Code of Ethics

I. Preamble:

The Association for Asian American Studies establishes this Code of Ethics to promote the highest standards of ethical behavior among those in the profession and to delineate and underscore the expectations of those who hold membership in the Association. At the same time, the Association for Asian American Studies is firmly committed to free and open inquiry, and this Code of Ethics must never be applied to restrict freedom of thought and expression.

Born out of struggle, Asian American Studies programs were established to serve Asian American communities, thereby contributing to equality and social justice and the democratization of American society as a whole. Accordingly, Asian Americanists bear responsibilities to the people whose lives and cultures we study, to the discipline, and to our students.

II. Responsibility to the Community:

Asian Americanists' first responsibility is to the people whose lives and cultures we study. We must respect the privacy of our subjects and clearly communicate our research design and intentions, consider the positive and negative consequences of our activities, and refrain from exploiting individuals and groups for personal gain. We must recognize our debt to the communities in which we work and we need to reciprocate in appropriate ways. Research should ultimately be for the benefit of Asian Americans.

III. Responsibility to the Field:

Asian Americanists should acknowledge persons who have contributed to our research, including students, and must not represent as our own work, either in writing or in oral speech, ideas or information taken from other sources. Data and ideas taken from another person's published or unpublished writings must be explicitly identified and referenced, even if not quoted verbatim. Those citations should not be knowingly omitted.

Asian Americanists should avoid conflicts of interest, such as in reviewing works of colleagues for whom she or he feels an overriding sense of personal obligation, admiration, or enmity. We should apply the highest standards of scholarship to works under review without personal or ideological malice.

Asian Americanists should avoid pettiness and *ad hominem* attacks, and instead promote a spirit of collegiality, cooperation, and mutuality.

Asian Americanists must refrain from sexual exploitation, and from using others for personal advantage or by appropriating others' ideas and research work.

Association for Asian American Studies
Code of Ethics
Page 2 of 2

IV. Responsibility to Students:

Asian Americanists must be fair, honest, and nonexploitative in our dealings with undergraduate and graduate students, and should be committed to their intellectual welfare and advancement. We are responsible for transmitting effectively to our students current understandings and the state of the field beyond the confines of our personal theories and approaches.

We should, accordingly, strive to improve our teaching, be responsive to student interests and needs, be fair in our evaluation of student work, and be conscientious in advising and supervising students. We should vigorously assist students in securing research support and professional placement.

Asian Americanists should not permit personal conflicts or intellectual differences vis-a-vis colleagues to prevent student access to those colleagues.

V. Policies and Procedures:

The Committee on Professional Development and Ethics, appointed by the president with the consent of the executive council, shall have the responsibility for interpreting and publicizing this Code of Ethics, investigating complaints concerning the ethical conduct of Association members, mediating disputes between parties, holding hearings on formal charges of misconduct, and recommending appropriate actions to the board.

The committee, after a hearing, should notify the board and the concerned parties of its decision, that might carry the following sanctions:

1. apply no sanctions;
2. suspend the membership and attendant privileges for a specified period;

3. request the resignation of a member; or
4. terminate the membership of a member.

The board shall receive the committee's recommendations and will take appropriate action. Only the board can apply any of the above sanctions on a member.