



CALIFORNIA SCHOLARS FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

<https://cascholars4academicfreedom.home.blog>

June 2, 2023

To: Dear President Ramona Perez and the AAA Executive Board:
<perez@sdsu.edu>

Cc: <wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu>, <adam@anthrocurious.com>, <acabado@ucla.edu>, <dr.kamelaheywardrotimi@outlook.com>, <jmaskovsky@gc.cuny.edu>, <bameek@umich.edu>, <gvcetina@uady.mx>, <petra@monmouthcollege.edu>, <ksampec@ilstu.edu>, <j.benntor@vanderbilt.edu>, <kslocum@unc.edu>, <grichards@coastal.edu>, <dberiss@gmail.com>, <drldbaker@gmail.com>, <brendanea.tynes@gmail.com>, <avanarsd@wellesley.edu>, <erik.harms@yale.edu>

Endorsement of Resolution before the American Anthropological Association to Adopt an Institutional Boycott of Israeli Universities

California Scholars for Academic Freedom asks that you share with your membership our endorsement of the proposal to boycott Israeli higher educational institutions. CS4AF is defined by a commitment to academic freedom without exceptions—which is to say, to academic freedom *not* as protections available to the privileged at the expense of the disempowered.** It is thus our responsibility to endorse, without qualification, [the proposed resolution](#) before the American Anthropological Association to adopt an institutional boycott of Israeli universities, in response to the call for such boycotts from Palestinian civil society organizations, notably including [the Palestinian Federation of Union of University Professors and Employees](#).

California Scholars recognizes that the resolution the AAA will vote on is a principled call for an institutional boycott and is explicitly a rejection of any boycott of individual scholars, contrary to the misinformation perpetrated by those who weaponize academic freedom in support of Israeli state apartheid and ethnic cleansing.

In addition, from Palestinian colleagues and their representative bodies, we have learned that Israeli universities are complicit in the denial of both freedom and academic freedom to Palestinians. The contrary claim by opponents of the proposed resolution, that Israeli universities are champions of Palestinian rights, ignores and silences Palestinian voices. This is peak colonialism and reprehensible.

California Scholars for Academic Freedom is proud to endorse the proposed resolution and to stand in solidarity with Palestinian colleagues in their pursuit of freedom and academic freedom for all of us.

Please feel free to reach out to CS4AF if we can be of any other help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gallagher, Professor Emerita, UCSB, co-Coordinator, CS4AF

Members in good standing of the American Anthropological Association:

Lara Deeb, Laura Vausbinder Hockett Professor, Anthropology and MENA Studies, Scripps College

Sondra Hale, Professor Emerita, Anthropology and Gender Studies, UCLA

Cori Hayden, Professor of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

Suad Joseph, Professor Emerita, Anthropology, UC Davis

Dorinne Kondo, Professor of Anthropology and American and Ethnic Studies, USC

Edie Pistolesi, Professor of Art, CSU Northridge

Lisa Rofel, Professor Emerita, Anthropology, UCSC

Daniel Segal, Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology and Professor of History, Pitzer College

Susan Slyomovics, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA

General membership:

Rabab Abdulhadi
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Richard Falk
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Chair of Global Law, Queen Mary University London.
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Gary Fields
Professor
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Ron Loewe
Professor of Anthropology
California State University, Long Beach

Vida Samiian
Professor and Dean Emerita
California State University, Fresno

**CALIFORNIA SCHOLARS FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM (cs4af) is a group of over 200 scholars who defend academic freedom, the right of shared governance, and the First Amendment rights of faculty and students in the academy and beyond. California Scholars for Academic Freedom investigates legislative and administrative infringements on freedom of speech and assembly, and it raises the consciousness of politicians, university regents and administrators, faculty, students and the public at large through open letters, press releases, petitions, statements, and articles. Our vigilance extends to violations of academic freedom anywhere in the United States and abroad, for we recognize that violations of academic freedom anywhere are threats to academic freedom everywhere.

