

**Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry
Code of Professional Ethics**

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ) is an interdisciplinary organization of social scientists who work in academic and applied settings and as independent scholars. ASSJ members conduct research and produce knowledge specifically for the academy, organizations and clients, and more generally for the communities and societies in which they live and work. ASSJ calls on its members to abide by this code of ethics in all of their professional roles, settings and situations.

1. Standards for conducting research

In conducting their research, ASSJ members:

- a. Ensure they have proper professional training, experience and competencies required for the research, and accurately and fairly represent their areas of knowledge and degrees of expertise
- b. Protect the rights and well-being of human subjects, where appropriate by obtaining Institutional Review Board approval, or otherwise by protecting subjects' confidentiality, disclosing risks and benefits to subjects, ensuring subjects' participation is voluntary and is based on informed consent, and interacting transparently with subjects.
- c. Represent their findings, including the limits of their findings, accurately and forthrightly.
- d. Engage in a process of peer review of their work, either by traditional means such as double-blind peer review, or by serious collegial review when research is self-published by academic centers, published under non-academic auspices or prepared for clients
- e. Acknowledge the assistance of all people who contributed to the research, including colleagues and students
- f. Protect and preserve their work products, including but not necessarily limited to survey instruments and data, interview guides, field notes, publications, reports and other products
- g. Do not plagiarize, fabricate or falsify evidence, or knowingly misrepresent information or its source

2. Standards of disclosure

In all publications – whether publicly released or not, and whether for the academy, organizations or clients – ASSJ members:

- a. Disclose funders, commissioning organizations and clients related to the research
- b. Disclose potential conflicts of interest with respect to the reported research or declare they have no known conflicts of interest in all publications

- c. Disclose the review process the publication or report underwent prior to its final version (excluding, at their discretion, review processes that did not result in publication)
- d. Disclose sufficient information about how the research was conducted to allow for independent review and verification of research claims
- e. Disclose the use of proprietary information that cannot be described in sufficient detail for independent review and verification

3. Relationships with funders, commissioning organizations and clients

When ASSJ members receive funding for their research, are commissioned to conduct research, or undertake work for clients, they:

- a. Reach agreements with funders, commissioning organizations and clients about ownership and dissemination of data, findings, publications, reports and other deliverables prior to commencing research
- b. Inform funders, commissioning organizations and clients about their commitment to ASSJ's standards of disclosure as described above
- c. Refrain from making recommendations to funders, commissioning organizations and clients that would harm people studied or served
- d. Hold confidential all proprietary information obtained from funders, commissioning organizations and clients

4. Teaching, mentoring and service

When ASSJ members have teaching, mentoring and service responsibilities, they:

- a. Promote free inquiry, critical analysis and respect for diverse points of view in teaching environments
- b. Treat students with dignity and create environments where students feel able to openly express their views
- c. Communicate expectations and standards of evaluation for students clearly, and provide honest and thorough feedback on student progress
- d. Mentor, advise and train students and junior colleagues conscientiously and thoroughly.
- e. Contribute service to academic institutions and professional organizations commensurate with their professional advancement and other professional responsibilities
- f. Contribute equitably to publication and conference review processes
- g. Decline to review work when they do not have sufficient knowledge or expertise
- h. Disclose potential conflicts of interest they may have in reviewing work

5. Interactions with media

When interacting with the media and other non-academic audiences, ASSJ members:

- a. Represent their findings accurately
- b. Communicate the limits of their findings and the extent of their findings' generalizability
- c. Work to prevent distorted reporting of their research
- d. Disclose funders and potential conflicts of interest with respect to research conducted and reported

6. Personal behavior related to professional work

In all professional roles, settings, and situations, ASSJ members:

- a. Remain aware of power and status differences and do not exploit them
- b. Demonstrate respect for colleagues, in person and online, even when they disagree on theory, methods, evidence and other professional matters.
- c. Refrain from engaging in any behavior or action that constitutes sexual misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, as defined by the [Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Association for Jewish Studies](#)
 - i. "Sexual misconduct incorporates a range of behaviors including sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, stalking, voyeurism, and any other conduct of a sexual nature that is nonconsensual, or has the purpose or effect of threatening, intimidating, or coercing a person. Much sexual misconduct includes nonconsensual sexual contact, but this is not a necessary component. For example, threatening speech that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to constitute sexual harassment will constitute sexual misconduct."
 - ii. "Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal comment or physical conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's professional work or academic performance, including situations in which (i) the request or conduct involves any implied or expressed promise of professional reward for complying; or (ii) the request or conduct involves any implied or expressed threat of reprisal or denial of opportunity for refusing to comply; or (iii) the request or conduct results in what reasonably may be perceived as a hostile or intimidating environment. Such examples are illustrative, not exhaustive. Sexual harassment may be found in a single episode, as well as in persistent behavior. All members of our community are protected from sexual harassment, and sexual harassment is prohibited regardless of the sex of the harasser or the harassed."

- d. Refrain from any form of illegal or unethical discrimination in their work as defined by the [non-discrimination policy of the American Academy of Religion](#):
 - i. “The American Academy of Religion respects the rights, dignity and worth of all people. It unequivocally rejects all forms of harassment and unethical discrimination, including discrimination and harassment based on race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnicity, citizenship, sex, gender expression or identification, sexual orientation, disability, religion, culture, political convictions, socioeconomic status, age, health conditions or marital, domestic, or parental status, or any other applicable basis proscribed by law. All activities taking place under the aegis of the AAR (including the annual meeting, regional meetings and academy-sponsored committees, publications, and sessions) are bound by this anti-discrimination policy.”