SOCIETY FOR U.S. INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

I. Purpose

All officially sanctioned events and gatherings associated with the Society for U.S. Intellectual History are convened for the purposes of professional development and educational exchange in the spirit of free inquiry and free expression. Any harassment of colleagues, students, or other participants violates the guiding values of our organization. This policy is in effect at officially sponsored S-USIH events (both virtual and in-person), such as lectures, panel discussions, roundtables, plenary sessions, conference book exhibits, luncheons, and receptions.

S-USIH affirms its commitment to ensuring a respectful, supportive, and inclusive environment, in all of its arenas of engagement. As an organization, we pledge to foster scholarly exchange and promote the building of professional networks at our conferences, sponsored events, and across various media platforms. Therefore, we seek to provide and nurture a scholarly environment in which attendees can participate regardless of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, socioeconomic status, veteran status, age, or religion.

All members and participants are expected to engage in consensual and respectful behavior and maintain a standard of professionalism at all times. We do not tolerate harassment or bullying in any form. Those who violate this Code of Professional Conduct will be asked to modify their behavior. Those who refuse to do so will be asked to leave the event. Persistent unprofessional behavior may result in being banned from participating in future S-USIH events and being barred from contributing on S-USIH social media platforms.

II. Harassment Policy

A. Expected behavior
- All participants are expected to abide by this code of conduct at all officially sanctioned S-USIH activities and on all S-USIH maintained sites.
- All participants are expected to abide by the norms of professional respect that are necessary to promote the conditions for free academic interchange.
- If you witness potential harm to a participant, be diplomatically proactive in helping to mitigate or avoid that harm.
- Any participant at a S-USIH sponsored event or site who experiences or witnesses conduct that violates the harassment policy is encouraged (but not obligated) to report the incident.

B. Examples of unacceptable behavior
- Persistent and unwelcome solicitation of emotional or physical intimacy whether accompanied by real or implied threat of professional harm or not.
- Intimidating, harassing, abusive, derogatory, or demeaning speech or actions by any participant in an officially sanctioned S-USIH activity or on a S-USIH-managed site.
- Prejudicial actions or comments related to actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status, age, or religion that coerce others, foment broad hostility, or otherwise undermine professional equity or the principles of free academic exchange. Such harassment might also include unprofessional and unethical behaviors, such as intentionally misgendering someone, refusing to use a person's preferred pronouns, or making inappropriate remarks about a person's gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Deliberate intimidation, stalking, or following.
- Harassing photography or recording without permission.
- Sustained disruption of presentations or other events, including yelling at or threatening speakers (verbally or physically).
- Physical assault (including unwelcome touching or groping).
- Unsolicited and unwelcome demands or requests for sexual favors, sexual encounters or amorous social engagements
- Real or implied threat of physical harm.
- Bullying, which may include attempts to privately intimidate or publicly humiliate someone or malign their character. Bullying is distinct from a sharp scholarly critique and the vigorous exchange of ideas. Rather, it is aimed at causing personal distress and/or social harm to its victims.

We encourage timely reporting, but we understand that it might not always be possible. We therefore will take up *ex post facto* allegations of S-USIH policy violations. Discretion will always be used, and confidentiality will be protected to the extent that the law permits.

Retaliation or retribution against an individual who has complained about harassment will not be tolerated. If a person believes they have been wrongly found to be in violation of the S-USIH policy and as a result of that finding has been expelled from an event or otherwise denied access to S-USIH programs and activities, then they may appeal in writing to the Executive Committee.

III. S-USIH Publication and Comment Policy

Once a post has gone up on the S-USIH website, all edits beyond corrections of grammar or spelling must be made visibly. Removed text will be retained as strike-out text (e.g. ~~strike out~~). Brief corrections to struck-out passages can be added immediately after the stricken text. Longer amendments will be added at the end of the post as indicated updates which include the date and time of the update. One exception exists: If the Blog Editor determines that a post endangers our 501(c)(3) status, then it will be removed.

We ask that those who participate in the discussions generated in the Comments section do so with the same decorum as they would in any other academic setting or context. Since the S-USIH bloggers and conference participants write under their real names, we would prefer that our commenters also identify themselves by their real name. As our primary goal is to stimulate and engage in fruitful and productive discussion, ad hominem attacks (personal or professional), unnecessary insults, and/or mean-spiritedness have no place in the S-USIH Comments section. In general, the S-USIH will not remove comments on posts or generated during a live event; however, we reserve the right to remove any comments that violate the S-USIH Code of Conduct and/or are not intended to further the discussion of the topic. We welcome suggestions for corrections, and we encourage rigorous engagement with our colleagues' scholarship.

[*APPROVED BY S-USIH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 15 AUGUST 2020*]