

# **Constitution of the International Association of Inter-American Studies**

## **ARTICLE 1: Name, Seat, and Business Year**

Sec. 1. The name of this society shall be "International Association of Inter-American Studies."

Sec. 2. The seat of the Association shall be Bielefeld, Germany. The seat of the business office shall be determined by the executive board.

Sec. 3. The Association shall be entered into the register of associations at the Bielefeld Court. Thereafter it shall carry the affix "e.V." (registered association) in Germany.

Sec. 4. The Association's business year is the calendar year.

## **ARTICLE 2: Object**

Sec. 1. The Association shall work exclusively for the common good. The object of the Association shall be the promotion of interdisciplinary and transnational research.

In particular the Association shall

- promote interest in inter-American Studies,
- establish networks of researchers, institutions, and projects,
- organize conferences and other events,
- promote academic exchange and the publication of research findings,
- facilitate the entry of young scholars into the profession,
- establish and intensify contacts with other academic associations.

Sec. 2. The Association shall be a non-profit organization.

Sec. 3. Funds of the Association shall only be used in accordance with its constitution and bylaws. Members of the Association shall receive no remuneration out of the Association's funds.

Sec. 4. No person shall receive remuneration or funding from the Association that is not in accordance with the Association's objective. No person shall receive disproportionately high remuneration from the Association.

## **ARTICLE 3: Membership**

Sec. 1. Any person, department or non-profit organization interested in inter-American Studies and supportive of the Association's objective shall be eligible for membership.

2. The executive board determines the acceptance of new members. Membership shall be terminated in cases of

- a) a member's written statement to that effect,
- b) exclusion,
- c) death.

Members can declare their wish to be dropped from the Association's rolls at any time, but they will

be required to pay their membership dues for the calendar year during which they leave the Association. The executive board may exclude members from the Association (especially in cases of non-payment of membership dues). The excluded member may file an appeal within 14 days. The appeal shall be decided on by the following Members' Council.

#### **ARTICLE 4: Boards and Officers**

The Association shall be represented by

1. the Members' Council,
2. the Executive Board,
3. the Advisory Board.

#### **ARTICLE 5: Members' Council**

Sect. 1. The Member's Council, a general assembly of all members of the Association, shall be convened at least once every two years. The agenda shall be sent in writing to the members at least 14 days before the meeting. Written invitation in electronic form is acceptable.

Sect. 2. The Members' Council shall take decisions on the basis of majority votes of the members in attendance. In particular, it shall be responsible for:

- a) electing the executive board, the advisory board, and the auditors,
- b) exonerating the executive board on the basis of its reports on activities and financial transactions,
- c) excluding members.

Sect. 3. Changes to the constitution and bylaws and the dissolution of the Association can only be effected with a three-fourths majority vote of the members in attendance. If no agreement is reached, the subsequent meeting of the Members' Council can take such decisions with a two-thirds majority vote of the members in attendance. Prospective changes to the constitution and bylaws shall be made known to the members together with the invitation to the business meeting of the Members' Council.

Sect. 4. Elections by the Members' Council and votes on changes to the constitution and bylaws can also be conducted electronically.

Sect. 5. Minutes shall be kept concerning all decisions of the Members' Council. These minutes need to be signed by two members of the executive board.

#### **ARTICLE 6: Executive Board**

Sect. 1. The Executive Board consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Executive Director, and the Treasurer.

Sect. 2. Every member of the Association may nominate candidates (including himself/herself) for the Executive Board. Nominations in electronic form are acceptable.

Sect. 3. The Executive Board shall be elected by the Members' Council for the duration of two years. If two candidates receive the same number of votes, lots will be drawn. The terms of office of the Executive Board members shall begin on January 1 of the year following their election. The

term of office of the founding Executive Board shall begin immediately after its election and end on December 31, 2010. In the event that individual members resign from or leave the Executive Board, the remaining members may recruit persons to fill the vacant offices. The Executive Council shall remain in office until a new Executive Council has been elected.

Sect. 4. The Executive Board shall conduct the affairs of the Association.

Sect. 5. The Executive Board shall be presided by the Association's President.

Sect. 6. The Executive Board shall meet when the interests of the Association require a meeting. It can take decisions if three of its members are present. The Executive Council may also convene virtually (e.g. via video conferencing) or electronically (e.g. via Internet or e-mail). Meetings of the Executive Council shall be convened by the President; if he/she is unable to do so, by the Vice-President.

## **ARTICLE 7: Advisory Board**

Sect. 1. Every member of the Association may nominate candidates (including himself/herself) for the Advisory Board. Nominations in electronic form are acceptable.

Sect. 2. The Members' Council shall elect an Advisory Board of up to 11 members, who shall remain in office for four years. If two candidates receive the same number of votes, lots will be drawn. The Advisory Board shall try to reflect the diversity of academic disciplines and geographic regions involved in inter-American Studies and to have at least one (graduate) student member. Additionally, a member of the editorial board of the online journal *fiar: Forum for Inter-American Research* shall be an *ex officio* member of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board's term of office shall begin on January 1 of the year following its election. The term of office of the founding Executive Board shall begin immediately after its election and end on December 31, 2010.

Sect. 3. The Advisory Board shall advise the Executive Board on matters of principle. The Executive Board may delegate certain tasks (such as recruiting members, establishing networks, or organizing conferences) to members of the Advisory Board. The Executive Board shall be required to inform the Advisory Board on activities of the Association.

## **ARTICLE 8: Auditors**

The financial records of the Association shall be reviewed by two auditors elected by the Members' Council. The auditors shall report their findings to the Members' Council.

## **ARTICLE 9: Minor Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws**

Should the Bielefeld Court or the Bielefeld branch of the Internal Revenue Service require minor changes to the constitution and bylaws in order to ensure entry into the register of associations or to grant tax exemption, such changes may be made by the Executive Board with a three-fourths majority.

**ARTICLE 10: Membership Dues**

The amount of membership dues shall be determined by the Members' Council. The Executive Council is entitled to reduce or waive the membership dues of individuals in special circumstances.

**ARTICLE 11: Dissolution**

In the event that the Association is dissolved, its assets will be donated to Amnesty International.

Ratified in Bielefeld (Germany) on the twenty-third day of July, 2009.