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Speaker policy information of the British Institute of Persian Studies

The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) is the UK's foremost learned society dedicated to increasing public knowledge and supporting scholarship on Iran and the wider Persianate world, including South and Central Asia. The Persianate world includes territories historically associated with Persian and Iranian culture and language. These areas include, but are not limited to, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Transcaucasia, Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral and South Asia. BIPS is invested in supporting a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and subjects include Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Classics, Cultural Studies, History, Language, Linguistics, Politics, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

BIPS is a UK charity and company limited by guarantee, with a self-governing membership organisation, whose members are elected on a three-yearly basis to serve on BIPS Governing Council as trustees of the charity and directors of the company. BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI) – a group of research institutes with overseas centres in Europe, Southwest Asia, North and East Africa. The BIRI are financially supported by and headquartered in the British Academy.

BIPS was founded in the UK in 1961 and in Iran in 1963, however the Institute in Tehran remains closed to the public. In the UK, BIPS plays a key role in sustaining the academic vitality and increasing the visibility of the field, by campaigning for greater provision for its study in higher education. BIPS' activities include the annual awarding of Master's dissertation, research and travel grants, and an extensive programme of webinars, workshops, lectures, and other events in the UK. BIPS has published its journal, *IRAN*, every year since 1963. It also publishes the *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series* in conjunction with Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris and the *Archaeological Monograph Series* with Oxbow Books.

BIPS is committed to ensuring its events and lectures remain vibrant, intellectually diverse, inclusive places for the expression of beliefs, exchange of knowledge, and debate of ideas, issues and viewpoints by people from different backgrounds with events taking place safely. BIPS is committed to demonstrating open-mindedness and expects to challenge and be challenged in protecting inclusion, non-discrimination and freedom of expression within the parameters of British law. BIPS also seeks to encourage its members, staff and visitors to aim to engage civilly in debate. Therefore, BIPS' policy affirms that every member of BIPS, its staff, and its external visitors, are entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, to hold opinions without interference or disadvantage, and to freedom of speech and expression within the constraints of British law.

In accordance with BIPS' mission to foster knowledge and intellectual discourse about the Persianate world in a non-political fashion, content of BIPS' sponsored public events will draw from the range of disciplines which are the subject matter of BIPS in a way that does not



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involve expression of political views about any country or religion or any discriminatory content. The latter includes, but it is not limited to, discriminatory comments or abusive behaviour targeting the speaker's or other members of the audience's gender, race, nationality, religious or political beliefs.

In order to enforce its policy, BIPS reserves the right to:

1. immediately interrupt any event or lecture, should the organisers decide the speaker is not complying with the Institute's policies;
2. reject questions from the audience of its online and in-person events if these are deemed to be against those policies;
3. remove any attendee from its online and in-person events if they are seen not to be complying with the Institute's policies in any way.

BIPS will conduct its due diligence on the invited speakers, including reference to the OFSI sanctions list, careful review of the answers provided in the Speaker Information Form and requiring the speaker to read and sign the policy. BIPS keeps a record of the results of the search on the OFSI sanction list. BIPS reserves the right to withdraw the initial invitation if the speaker does not satisfy the criteria of the above policy.

(___) *I understand and agree with the policy above.*

Signed

Date