

CBRL Statement of Principles

CBRL is a learned society for the advancement of public education on the Levant through the promotion and dissemination of research in the humanities, social sciences and related disciplines. We work on and in Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. Our policies and guidelines promote scholarship of the highest standards of research integrity, recognising this as fundamental to ethical, sound and sustainable scholarly engagement and publication.

In defining our principles of research integrity, we draw upon the Concordat to Support Research Integrity¹, and seek to inculcate principles of honesty, rigour, transparency and openness in all aspects of our work and in the research we support.

We hold the principles of Research Integrity to include:

- i. *Honesty* in the presentation of research goals, findings, and intentions of research, including the declaration of any possible risks; reporting on the purpose of research, its methods and procedures; the use and acknowledgment of other researchers' work and ideas, ensuring proper citation and avoiding plagiarism; and conveying evidentially-based interpretation;
- ii. *Rigour*, in line with prevailing disciplinary norms and standards in: performing research and using appropriate methods; adhering to an agreed protocol where appropriate; drawing interpretations and conclusions for the research; and communicating the results;
- iii. *Transparency and openness*: in declaring conflicts of interest and risks; in obtaining consent from or on behalf of participants or others affected by the research; in reporting research data collection methods; in the analysis and interpretation of data; in making research findings widely available, including sharing negative results as appropriate; and in presenting one's work to other researchers and to the general public;
- iv. *Care and respect* for all participants in and subjects of research, including humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects. This includes observation of the confidentiality of information supplied by research subjects and the anonymity of respondents unless otherwise agreed with the subjects and respondents concerned. It also entails respect for the stewardship of research and scholarship for future generations.

CBRL is committed to proper employment conditions for research staff, observing the provisions of The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.²

CBRL requires all affiliated researchers to uphold these principles throughout their research, and to acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by them as a condition of their award.

¹ The [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) was first published by Universities UK in 2012 with an update in 2019. It was developed in collaboration with the funding councils, research councils, the Wellcome Trust and other government departments and seeks to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. See

² See <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat>

In addition to these guidelines, CBRL expects all applicants for funding to indicate whether their proposed research is likely to raise particular ethical issues that would require sensitivity and adherence to specific guidelines and practices. These may include:

- the involvement of human participants;
- the involvement of human remains;
- the use of animals;
- the destructive analysis of historic artefacts;
- the study of artefacts the legal provenance of which is not absolutely secure;
- research that may result in damage to the natural or historic environment;
- the use of sensitive social, economic or political data;
- research conducted in occupied territories.
- the involvement of vulnerable persons including refugees, displaced persons, stateless persons and children.

For these particular, but not exclusively, ethical considerations, CBRL upholds:

Working with living human participants

- That research involving the gathering of data from living people must obtain specific ethical approval from the researcher's institution before conducting research and submit evidence of this approval to CBRL's Research Committee upon request. In the absence of an UKHE institutional affiliation, researchers/successful applicants must submit their own Declaration of Ethical Research to CBRL's Research Committee, indicating awareness and recognition of the ethical considerations of their research topic, receiving approval to carry out the research before commencing fieldwork.
- That researchers ensure that their research does not risk the safety or compromise the dignity or privacy of the people with whom they conduct research;
- That individuals or groups be actively consulted to establish working relations that are beneficial to all;
- That researchers, where legally required, shall seek the permission of living or recently deceased people (or their next of kin) depicted in photographs or video imagery before such imagery is employed or published in any public domain.³

Working with displaced persons and the communities that host them

- Research on displaced persons (asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants) and the communities that host them requires particular ethical considerations for these populations typically endure experiences of violence, poverty, social marginalisation, and legal precariousness. For such projects, researchers are advised to consult the code

³ See "Copyright Notice: Digital Images, Photographs and the Internet" UK Intellectual Property Office, found at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/481194/c-notice-201401.pdf

of ethics adopted by the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM)⁴.

Social science surveys:

- That recruits or potential recruits be provided with sufficient information to allow them to decide whether or not they wish to participate in the given research project, and that recruited individuals shall be free to cease participation at any time without pressure or requirement to give reasons;
- That researchers have the obligation to ensure the security of all personal data and research records in their possession and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that participants are not harmed or adversely affected by participation in a given research project or survey;
- That all surveys be carried out in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016⁵; the Data Protection Act 2018⁶ and any relevant legislation in the country involved in the given research project. In the EU, data protection law means the General Data Protection Regulation EU 2016/679 (**GDPR**), plus local data protection law that applies in each EU country. Although the UK is no longer party of the EU, the provisions of the GDPR have been automatically adopted into domestic law under the **UK GDPR**. CBRL may be required to comply with both the UK GDPR and the (EU) GDPR depending on its activities.

Working with human remains:

- That all human remains of any period shall be treated with great care, respect and dignity, irrespective of their origin, age, sex, beliefs, customs or traditions. CBRL requires all researchers working on human remains to adhere to the framework of ethical principles set out in the World Archaeological Congress's Vermillion Accord on Human Remains (1989). Researchers must also understand and adhere to the latest code of ethics stipulated by the British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABA0)⁷.

Archaeological fieldwork, including excavation:

- researchers working on excavations and any other fieldwork involving antiquities must in no way be instrumental in their sale, theft or illegal trafficking;
- researchers have an obligation toward preservation and conservation, entailing that all archaeological processes be accompanied by a systematic means of recording, including secure deposit of records, and consideration of the future security of the site through relevant consolidation, backfilling and conservation measures. The obligation to conserve includes objects and other material collected during excavation.

⁴ [International Association for the Study of Forced Migration \(IASFM\)](#)

⁵ <https://gdpr-info.eu/>

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

⁷ [Ethics and Standards - BABA0](#)

In reference to the publication of research:

Research undertaken in occupied areas

- In general CBRL and its journals *Levant* and *Contemporary Levant* will not publish research that has been undertaken in occupied territory and its contiguous waters as recognised by the United Nations and/or the British Government. However, when permission of the competent national authorities of the occupied territory has been obtained by the researcher, or in the case of material heritage and archaeology such research is crucial to safeguard, record or preserve the archaeological heritage of the occupied territory, publication may be considered.

Organisations/institutions in occupied areas

- CBRL and its journals *Levant* and *Contemporary Levant* do not normally consider for publication, research undertaken under the auspices of organisations/institutions established in occupied territories and their contiguous waters as recognised by the United Nations and/or the British Government.

Provenance of undocumented objects

- CBRL will not serve as the initial place of publication for any unprovenanced object (an object without a defined archaeological findspot and/or documented history of legitimate ownership under the relevant antiquities laws) acquired by an individual or an institution after 24 April 1972, the date when the UNESCO convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property came into force. An exception may be made if, in the view of the CBRL and its Editor(s), the publication sufficiently clarifies and justifies the object's acquisition history.

Human Remains

- It is the responsibility of CBRL and its journals *Levant* and *Contemporary Levant* to ensure that the publication of human remains is undertaken with respect, discretion, and dignity, and, whenever possible, with the appropriate consultation with descendant communities. It is expected that all research has been vetted and approved by the relevant ethical review boards. In all cases, final decisions regarding publication in a CBRL publication remain at the discretion of the Editors and Editorial Board

CBRL is committed to ensuring that the research it supports:

- does not place the subjects/participants at risk;
- is not placing the researcher at risk;
- is not placing the CBRL and its reputation at risk;
- is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

CBRL is an independent, non-partisan, non-denominational organisation that does not tolerate discrimination in any form based on national, ethnic, racial, gender, and religious lines or sexual orientation, and will take action against those who fail to act according to these principles.

CBRL retains the right to withhold all or part, in its sole discretion, of any funding for research or the publication of research it does not consider satisfies its values and standards.

International legal frameworks and concordats

CBRL acknowledges and endorses the following international legal frameworks and concordats. Researchers should familiarise themselves with these, and where relevant reference them in their ethical declaration.

- [ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage](#)
- [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [The United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention](#)
- [The Paris Agreement/United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#)
- [The United Nations Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development](#)
- [UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property](#)
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](#)
- [1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen and Illegally Exported Cultural Objects](#)
- [2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage](#)
- [1954 Hague Convention \(UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict\)](#)
- [NAGOYA protocol - The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization \(ABS\) to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- [1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees](#)
- [UK Data Protection Act](#)

Gift Acceptance

The Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) accepts philanthropic gifts and sponsorships which support the values of CBRL and enable it to advance its mission, support its strategic plan and enhance its programmes and services. CBRL's Gift Acceptance Policy sets out a framework for solicitation, review, acceptance, administration and stewardship of all philanthropic gifts and sponsorships to CBRL. The Gift Acceptance Policy covers the solicitation, review, acceptance, administration and stewardship of all philanthropic gifts, bequests and sponsorships supporting CBRL from individual donors, charitable associations, trusts, foundations and corporate entities. It applies to all forms of philanthropic gift and donation, monetary and non-monetary ('gifts-in-kind') as well as commercial income arising from sponsorship. Gifts of objects, 'gifts or services in kind', gifts of stocks and shares, as well as of books, book collections and archives, may be accepted or declined in line with the same principles and procedures as for monetary donations and where appropriate, in line with existing organisational policies. CBRL Board of Trustees has delegated authority for accepting or declining philanthropic gifts to the Acceptance of Gifts Group (AGG), although any decisions deemed by the AGG to be sufficiently unusual, substantial, sensitive or complex will be referred to the Board of Trustees before acceptance.

CBRL's gift acceptance policy follows guidelines for UK charities issued by the Charity Commission, the Fundraising Regulator and the Fundraising Code of Practice. Decisions on the acceptance of gifts must adhere to the following principles: that CBRL will protect its reputation, autonomy, integrity and academic freedom and will decline any gift which compromises these values or in any way restricts impartial, independent research or scholarship or its dissemination; and CBRL will only accept gifts which are compatible with charity law, as set out by the Charity Commission, and other relevant law, including tax law and VAT as set out by HM Revenue and Customs. It will not solicit or accept gifts that conflict, in their character or source, with CBRL's values or reputation CBRL will only accept gifts that are within the law and compatible with its charitable objectives. CBRL strives to be transparent about the source and purpose of all gifts.

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