



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

1. Introduction and scope

The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) was established in 1977 by His Highness the Aga Khan, 49th hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, with a mandate to promote scholarship and learning on Muslim cultures and societies in both historical and contemporary contexts. Its academic and educational activities promote an academic understanding of the diversity of expressions within Islam and its relationship with other religious traditions as well as the secular world. Within this broad span it pays special attention to research into, and disseminating knowledge relating to, the religious, spiritual and cultural heritage of the Shia Imami Ismaili Tariqah of Islam and its relationship with the wider world. The Institute's programmes encourage a perspective which is not confined to the theological heritage of Islam and promote an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Islamic history and thought. Pluralism and diversity are integral to the mandate of the Institute.



of staff, students or the communities that the IIS serves in jeopardy and should recognise that there may be legitimate grounds not to publish or disseminate knowledge, for example where such publication or dissemination, including through events, may expose or exacerbate sensitivities that may present a risk to, or have a damaging impact on, an individual, institution or community.

This Policy is based on the following principles:

- We respect the right of individuals to express their ideas and to challenge ideas or opinions with due regard to the principles of sound evidence and/or reasoned argument.
- We recognise the contribution of different perspectives, ideas and knowledge, and respect diversity and plurality.
- We acknowledge the importance for researchers and scholars to apply techniques and methodologies consistent with the academic conventions of their discipline.
- We will not permit or facilitate individuals or activities that may support or encourage individuals to be drawn into extremist ideologies or terrorism, incite violence or hatred or foment discord.
- We will enable academic staff to exercise their right of academic freedom within the law providing they maintain the reputation of the IIS and do not engage in activities that may have



The Institute of Intellectual Studies

5. Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for assuring academic freedom within the law is upheld within the IIS and that the IIS has the appropriate processes in place. The Board of Trustees has charged the Board of Governors with responsibility for the determination and oversight of this Policy Statement.

The Directors' Office

The Directors' Office is responsible for the implementation of this Policy Statement.

Heads of Departments

Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that all their lectures, research seminars and events comply with this policy and that their staff and students are familiar with these requirements.