

The Finnish Anthropological Society Supports the Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions

The Finnish Anthropological Society endorses the call to end institutional academic cooperation with Israel. The International Court of Justice is currently investigating alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and according to the UN and human rights organizations, the situation in Gaza and in other Palestinian territories is catastrophic. We encourage universities and academic institutions to investigate and end all official forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, such as student and researcher exchanges and joint research projects. The Finnish Anthropological Society condemns Israel's expansionist war in Gaza and other Palestinian territories and encourages the scientific community to follow the [guidelines set by the Palestinian-led boycott campaign PACBI](#). The academic boycott concerns institutions and is not directed at individual researchers.

Over the past year, calls to end institutional academic cooperation with Israel have intensified in Finland and internationally. Large student demonstrations across Finnish institutions of higher education have demanded an academic boycott of Israel. Many scholarly associations have voiced their support: for example, [The Finnish Society of Social Work Research](#), [The Society of Queer Studies in Finland](#), [The Finnish Literary Research Society](#), [The Westermarck Society](#), and [The Geographical Society of Finland](#) are committed to cutting institutional academic collaboration. The online media for Social and Cultural Anthropology [AntroBlogi](#) and the researcher network [Researchers for Palestine](#) have formulated similar demands. At the international level, the major scholarly associations for Social and Cultural Anthropology, the [American Anthropological Association \(AAA\)](#) and the [European Association for Social Anthropology \(EASA\)](#), have adopted clear boycott policies based on membership votes.

Israeli universities are closely connected to the country's military industry, intelligence services, and armed forces. [They are complicit](#) in the occupation of Palestinian territories, settler-colonial policy, apartheid, and now also genocide, for example by developing weapons systems and military doctrines used in war crimes and [offering study credits and financial support to students](#) who have served in Gaza. Critical voices in Israeli universities are suppressed, [Palestinian students and faculty have faced oppression](#), and their academic freedom has been curtailed.

As social and cultural anthropologists we want to take responsibility for dismantling colonial structures in the academic world. Through this statement, we demand an end to the destruction of Palestinian life. We support the Palestinian academic community and their [call to end institutional academic collaboration](#) with Israel. Israel has been carrying out [scholasticide](#) by destroying all universities in Gaza and killing hundreds of researchers and thousands of students. [Insaniyyat, the Society of Palestinian Anthropologists](#), has for a number of years reported systematic restrictions to Palestinian researchers' mobility, work, and academic freedom and requested the support of the international anthropological community in condemning these actions by Israel. From an anthropological perspective, scholasticide has a particular impact, as it renders the ethnographic witnessing and documentation of settler colonialism and war impossible. Cutting ties to Israeli academic institutions is an important way to pressure Israel to stop its expansionist war in Gaza, the occupation of Palestinian territories, and its system of apartheid.