

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
Policy on Territorial or Land Acknowledgement

This policy applies to submissions to the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies by authors from occupied or colonised land.

This policy comes into effect from its date.

Version Two, updated 10th February 2021

Honouring and acknowledging their homelands and ancestral connection to the environment is a centuries old tradition of Indigenous, Aboriginal, First Nations peoples. That connection is recognized in the United Nations' (2007) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which acknowledges Indigenous peoples' inalienable rights to "the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired" (Article 26). It asserts that "control by Indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs" (p. 4).

In alignment with the UN Declaration, the policy of British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies is that authors will:

- acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the institution to which they are affiliated is located, and/or:
- acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which research was conducted.

Please note, the term "traditional owners" has the definition given to it under applicable law.

Towards enacting this policy, authors are also encouraged to:

- document when research is undertaken in partnership with the traditional owners of the land where the research takes place, to enhance their mutual prosperity and values;
- use the Indigenous language to identify peoples, places, and practices (with English language translation in brackets as appropriate);
- provide participant quotes in the language used by those participants (with English language translation in brackets);

Example 1:

Author affiliation:

Author name, Department of History, The University of British Columbia, xwmaθkwəy' am (Musqueam) Territory, Vancouver, Canada

Example 2:

Author affiliation:

*Name of author, Dept. YYY, University of South Florida**

In the acknowledgements:

**University of South Florida is located on the traditional Homelands and territories of the Seminole, as well as other historical groups including the Calusa and Tocobaga. Today, the state of Florida is home to the Seminole, Miccosukee, Muscogee, and Choctaw, and to individuals of many other Native groups. Author XX recognizes the historical and continuing impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities, their resilience in the face of colonial and state sponsored violence, and fully support Indigenous Sovereignty. We will continue work to be more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.*

- For help in learning about the territory you live and work on, Native Land features a virtual, interactive map of Indigenous territories, treaties and languages across North America, South America, Northern Europe, New Zealand and Australia. However, the map does not represent or intend to represent official or legal boundaries of any Indigenous nations. The site also has resources for creating a land acknowledgement. <https://native-land.ca/>
- Here is some advice for creating an indigenous land acknowledgement statement: <https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

Occupied lands

Where an institution is built on land that has been appropriated by an occupying power in contravention of international law,¹ that this must be explicitly acknowledged. In the acknowledgements, the author is requested to provide the appropriate legal instrument/resolution designating the status of occupied land in international law.

An example of the text to appear on BJMES articles is given below.

Author affiliation: Name of Author, The University of XXX, illegal Israeli settlement of YY, Occupied Palestinian Territory (United Nations designation)

In the Acknowledgements: We acknowledge that the land on which this research was conducted is designated Occupied Palestinian Territory in international law, as reconfirmed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 in 2016.

The above example is illustrative and should not be understood as the only example of an institution that may be built on land appropriated by an occupying power in contravention of international law.

¹ The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines "the transfer, directly or indirectly, by the Occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies" as a war crime (Article 8.b.viii) <https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-library/documents/rs-eng.pdf>

Similarly, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states: "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."

Assistance with the Policy

For further information, please contact the BJMES Editor Dr Lloyd Ridgeon

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This policy reflects the position of BRISMES only and should not be interpreted as the views of the publisher, Editor or any other third parties associated with this Journal.

References

United Nations. (2007). Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wpcontent/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

University of South Florida, Department of Anthropology, Land Acknowledgement Statement, <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/anthropology/diversity-and-inclusion/land-acknowledgment-statement.aspx>

United Nations Security Council. (2016). Resolution 2334 (2016).

<https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>