

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIOECONOMICS LABORATORY

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM RULES OF  
CONDUCT

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Prepared by:  
Executives of the Laboratory

# eq·ui·ty

noun

The quality of being equal or fair; fairness, impartiality; even-handed dealing.

# Purpose of the Rules of Conduct

The International Socioeconomics Laboratory is a research institute that prioritizes honesty and inclusivity. Throughout the course of the year, the institute regulates work and ensures that all members adhere to the Laboratory's guidelines under the Code of Conduct. With an open competition, it becomes vital that we provide guidelines for the event, to ensure that the Laboratory remains a safe environment for all members and participants involved in the symposium. For these reasons, the following will be outlined in our Rules of Conduct. Please note, that these guidelines apply to all participants and are established on a general forum, with the intent to enforce consequences of different degrees on a case by case basis.

The following principles within the Rules of Conduct apply to participants within the symposium as well as all board members. These rules are in place for the safety of members and the institute. The guidelines also are the foundational values of the organization. All participants represent the institute during the symposium. Therefore, for the safety of directors and board members, legal guidelines are in place regarding plagiarism and legal property.

The Rules of Conduct apply to the ethical standards of the institute and have been approved by the Board of Executives. This document serves as an understanding to the responsibilities and efficacy of all members within the symposium.

While there is no legal document you are required to sign, in entrance to the symposium, the rules established in this document serve as the basis for any disqualification. All foundational rules, regarding ethical standards, legal and moral responsibilities, and integrity of all participants and board members will be included, along with possible consequences to not adhering to the Rules of Conduct. We aim to ensure the safety and security of all members and their work produced during the symposium, by establishing guidelines that must be followed.

This symposium is the world's first socioeconomics symposium and has extremely high expectations. Therefore, it is that much more important to maintain equity and respect throughout the competition.

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# I. Respect Towards Members

With the understanding of the symposium, and its innate purpose to reward deserving competitors in their research and policy abilities, respect towards fellow participants and board members over rules any qualifications. The following guidelines are set in place to ensure that all participants are respected and that the integrity of the institute is preserved.

Please note that if any participants are also members of the International Socioeconomics Laboratory and use derogatory terms during the symposium or on social media, they will be fired from the institute. Any member of the symposium that uses any racial slurs, profanity or makes sexist or sexual comments within the competition or on social media will not be allowed to work with the International Socioeconomics Laboratory in the future. If a participant is entered in a pair, and one individual uses any derogatory terms within the competition or on any social media platform, both members will be disqualified.

Racial slurs and profanity:

No participant is allowed to use racial slurs or profanity within their work, via social media towards any participants or board members, or during the first part of the symposium during the presentation. With the understanding of the disrespect of racial slurs and profanity, the use of any would directly go against the institute's principle of maintaining respect towards all participants and board members.

If any participants or board members use racial slurs within their work, such as referring to a group of people with a derogatory term, using profanity to embellish an argument, or insulting members the institute or other institutes with swearing, those participants will be immediately disqualified from the symposium and all work will be terminated.

With the largest medium of communication and distribution of information being social media, it is vital that all participants remain respectful on every social media platform. Every social media platform is public. Therefore, anything you do or say can be seen by the public, including all board members at the International Socioeconomics Laboratory as well as all fellow participants. If any participants use racial slurs or profanity on social media platforms, publically or towards fellow participants or board members, they will be immediately disqualified.

The use of any derogatory language during the research presentation is not acceptable. The use of racial slurs and profanity during a presentation, towards board members, fellow team members, or any group for the purpose of an argument will result in immediate disqualification.

## Sexist or Sexual Comments:

During the symposium, the use of any sexist or sexual comments or remarks goes against the institute's principle of respect towards all fellow participants and board members. Though the following guidelines are set for any sexist or sexual comments, any incident that involves the same oppressive behavior to a greater degree will understably result in the same consequences. Any sexist or sexual comments made in any submitted work, presentation on social media platforms will be cause of immediate dismissal from the symposium.

With any submitted work, including the research paper for part one of the symposium as well as the policy memo for the second part of the symposium, any sexist or sexual comments found throughout the papers will result in disqualification. The work produced during the symposium represents the institute and therefore must adhere to the value of respect towards all individuals.

During the first part of the symposium, being the research presentation, any sexist or sesxual remarks will cause immediate termination of the presentation and disqualification of all members involved.

Any sexist or sexual comments made publically or towards any fellow participant, team member, or board member at the Laboratory on any social media platform will not be tolerated, and result in immediate disqualification for the commenter and entrance partner, if applicable.

## II. Originality of all work

The International Socioeconomics Laboratory during its annual symposium will only accept original findings and policies. It is a priority at the Laboratory to avoid any plagiarism by instituting the rule that any and all submissions must be original work. If members decide to quote any previously published research, the proper citations are required to credit the original work. Plagiarism of any other competitor's work is also grounds for disqualification. Please note that if an individual or pair is found plagiarising any other participant's work, the situation will be reviewed by the executive board and can result in the disqualification for both the plagiariser and the participant with the original work.

### Citations and crediting published research

As plagiarism extends beyond peers within the symposium, it is vital that all participants understand the proper citation requirements and avoid crediting themselves with another individual's research or writing. All citations must be in APA format, included in a bibliography for both the research paper submitted in part one and the policy memo submitted in part two of the symposium. If any work is found plagiarising published research, all members involved will be disqualified from the symposium.

### Plagiarism of other students work

To ensure all students' work is fairly assessed by the Laboratory's board, there is no exchanging findings and research between competitors. All policies and research must remain within the entered individual or pair. If any participant(s) are found with the same research or policy as another participant(s) the executive board will address the situation, with the possibility of both competitors being disqualified.

Understandably, there are large groups that have divided into pairs to enter the symposium, with the same research paper. In this case, the same exact work is allowed, with the understanding that the presentation of the research for part one of the symposium, and any policies submitted in part two, will be different and fall under all the previous guidelines.

# III. Obey the Law

Finxerunt and the International Socioeconomics Laboratory takes its responsibilities to comply with laws and regulations very seriously and each of us is expected to comply with applicable legal requirements and prohibitions. While it's impossible for anyone to know all aspects of every applicable law, you should understand the major laws and regulations that apply to your work. A few specific laws are easy to violate unintentionally and so are worth pointing out here:

## **Dealing with government officials**

Offering gifts, entertainment, or other business courtesies that could be perceived as bribes becomes especially problematic if you're dealing with a government official. "Government officials" include any government employee; candidate for public office; or employee of government-owned or -controlled companies, public international organizations, or political parties.

Several laws around the world, including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the UK Bribery Act, specifically prohibit offering or giving anything of value to government officials to influence official action or to secure an improper advantage. This not only includes traditional gifts, but also things like meals, travel, political or charitable contributions, and job offers for government officials' relatives. Never give gifts to thank government officials for doing their jobs. By contrast, it can be permissible to make infrequent and moderate expenditures for gifts and business entertainment for government officials that are directly tied to promoting our products or services.

Payment of such expenses can be acceptable (assuming they are permitted under local law) but may require pre-approval from any Executive.

The U.S. also has strict rules that severely limit the ability of a company or its employees to give gifts and business courtesies to a U.S. government official and also limit the official's ability to accept such gifts.

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act prohibits giving any gifts, including travel and other courtesies, to Members, Officers, and employees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives unless they fit within one of a number of specific exceptions.



# IV. The Rights of the International Socioeconomics Laboratory

As a research institute, providing an opportunity for students to compete with their presented research and/or policies, there are guidelines pertaining to the rights of the Laboratory, to ensure that all participants understand the liabilities of the institution in reviewing submitted work. During the first part of the symposium, the research presentation, all submitted research will be commented on and reviewed by the Laboratory's board. With the understanding of the previous rules regarding respect and originality, the guidelines regarding confidentiality stand for all submitted work.

All work that is submitted to the International Socioeconomics Laboratory's annual symposium will be evaluated by the board. All commentary will remain confidential, between executive board members and the respective participant(s).

## Intellectual property

Any work submitted will remain as the intellectual property of the institution to use for publications, press releases, or any other form of public submission. Please note that the work submitted during the symposium cannot be resubmitted or used during other competitions. Any submitted work that is redistributed to other institutions can expose both the institution and the individual to civil fines and penalties. The work that is submitted under the International Socioeconomics Laboratory, remains the property of the Laboratory for future use. If any participant decides to withdraw from the competition, any submitted work remains the property of the International Socioeconomics Laboratory. This work cannot be redistributed to other institutes, and can be used by the Laboratory for future purposes, with the proper credentials.

## Payments and Refunds

Payments made, to enter the Laboratory's annual symposium, are non refundable. If a participant decides to withdraw from the competition, payments that they and their partner, if applicable, have made remain with the institution. For entrance to the first round of the symposium, each participant is required to pay \$25. If the participant(s) are entering as a pair, both members are required to pay \$25.

## The Communication Center

Both institutions' communication centers are a critical aspect of our institutions property, both physical and intellectual. Be sure to follow all security policies.

If you have any reason to believe that our network security has been violated – for example, you notice that someone joined a private discord chat– please promptly report the incident to Information Security. For more information, consult [Tech\[AT\]socioeconlabs\[DOT\]org](mailto:Tech@socioeconlabs.org)

## V. Conclusion

The International Socioeconomics Laboratory is a research institute that prioritizes the safety and confidentiality of all members, and participants in the annual symposium. The guidelines set under the Rules of Conduct ensure that the annual symposium abides to the ethical and legal standards of the institute, and provide a safe environment for all participants and members of the institution. We expect all participants to adhere to the Rules of Conduct and read them thoroughly to understand the consequences of each violation. If you ever suspect or witness any violations of the set guidelines, please bring the information to an executive member to be evaluated. If you are not sure of a violation, ask an executive member.

THANK YOU!

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