

ARIA Deontological Code Concerning External Relations and the Conclusion of Agreements with External Partners

1. Purpose and Scope of Application

The present deontological code seeks to ensure maximum transparency and optimal joint decision-making in the case of relations between members of ARIA and external partners. The regulations contained herein are applicable to any person who is affiliated with the Antwerp University Association and presents themselves, explicitly or implicitly, as speaking and/or acting on behalf of the Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts (ARIA), more particularly if said person is (1) a member of the ARIA steering board, (2) a member of the ARIA research council, (3) a researcher or administrative staff member who is employed in the context of ARIA.

The general purpose of this deontological code is to promote the best collective interest of ARIA as a multi-partner Institute and to ensure that the collaboration with external partners be the object of sufficient collective discussion and subsequent monitoring by the Institute's steering board, which is its highest policy-making and decision-making organ.

2. Disclosure, Assessment, and Monitoring of Concrete Cases

Every member of ARIA to whom the following descriptions apply is hereby required to disclose the nature, extent, and purposes of their interactions with external partners. The disclosure should happen with undue delay and be directed to the chairperson of the ARIA steering board (or to the chairperson of the ARIA research council in case of the steering board's chairperson). The disclosed elements will subsequently be brought to the steering board, which will assess them with discretion and in a collaborative spirit. If a conflict of interest is identified, proper measures will be taken to ensure that the Institute's best interests be served.

2.1. Who should disclose and when?

The deontological code applies to all situations in which an ARIA member speaks and/or acts in such a way that (1) the member seems to commit ARIA to explicit or implicit agreements with external partners and/or (2) the member's behavior as a representative might threaten to affect the good standing of the Institute to outside partners. It applies especially when said member may be perceived to have a significant personal interest (from financial to reputational to the promotion of their own or other people's careers) in the agreement being concluded or the impression being made. Such a perceived personal interest pertains in particular to the member's professional responsibilities within the Antwerp University Association, including activities such as research, research consultation, committee and

advisory board membership, service on panels, the staging of artistic events, and cooperation on the production of artworks.

2.2. Assessment and follow-up of disclosed cases

The ARIA steering board will determine how best to respond to the opportunities and pitfalls presented by the disclosed case and will decide on the course to be taken in moving forward. If the ARIA member who has disclosed a case to the board receives permission to further pursue opportunities, said member will be offered sufficient instructions for doing so and will accept in return to provide regular, clear, and detailed updates for as long as the disclosed interactions with the external partner(s) continue. If any formal agreements are to be entered into, they should always be approved by the steering board and signed by its chairperson on behalf of the Institute.