Ethics Code (October 2014)

1. The Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse is committed to research in the social sciences through rigorous scientific inquiry and open debate.

2. Members of the IAST are committed to high standards in the conduct of research, in the publication of the results of such research, and in their participation in public debate about its implications.

3. It is unacceptable for researchers to fabricate the results of their research, or knowingly to exaggerate its implications for the truth of the hypotheses under investigation. This applies with respect to both publication in scientific outlets and discussion in the press and media.

4. Where researchers discover significant errors in their own previously published work, they should take immediate steps to correct them, through the publication of an erratum or a retraction in the same publication where possible.

5. It is unacceptable for researchers to represent the work of others as their own. This requires both the avoidance of plagiarism, and the recognition of the contribution of others to a researcher’s own work (through co-authorship, acknowledgment in the text, or bibliographic references as appropriate). Recognition of the contribution of others is particularly important where those others are students, or are otherwise in a relation of dependence on the recognition of the researchers concerned.

6. Researchers should take all reasonable steps to make available to others the evidence on which their research is based, so that their work can be subject to evaluation by the scientific community. Any sharing of evidence must, however, respect the confidentiality of information about identifiable individuals, unless explicit permission has been obtained in writing from those individuals.

7. Researchers should acknowledge in any publication any relevant sources of research funding, as well as the sources of any relevant pecuniary or non-pecuniary benefit, which might be considered to create the possibility of a conflict of interest.

8. The IAST is committed to the freedom of expression of its members and does not seek to restrict their right to express their opinions in any way, subject to the preceding clauses. Any researcher making reference to their membership of the IAST should avoid giving the impression of speaking in the name of the IAST, which takes no institutional scientific or policy positions. When signing any communication other than a strictly scientific document, such as a press article, policy report or petition, researchers may mention their membership of the IAST but not refer to any executive functions they may hold.

9. Compliance with the IAST code of ethics does not absolve IAST researchers of the responsibility for compliance with the appropriate requirements in their specific disciplines and domains of research.

10. All members, staff and visitors of the IAST should endeavor to ensure that the working atmosphere of the Institute respects the autonomy and professionalism of all those who work there. In particular, physical, psychological and sexual harassment of any kind are unacceptable.

11. The IAST will constitute a small committee of persons who are not involved in the day-to-day running of the IAST and whom any IAST member can consult in confidence in case of concern about violation of any of the principles of this code. The committee may, if appropriate and with the permission of the IAST member concerned, inform the Executive Committee of the IAST and request it to take action.

At present the members of the Committee appointed to oversee the ethics code are Claude Crampes (claude.crampes@tse-fr.eu) and Sylvaine Peruzzetto (sylvaine.peruzzetto@ut-capitole.fr).