

# Affiliation Agreement

## Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship 2.0 (RIIS 2.0)

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This **Affiliation Agreement** between the prospective RIIS 2.0 Affiliate and RIIS 2.0 consists of the following sections:

- [Belonging Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Conflict Resolution Policy](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

To complete this Affiliation Agreement, you must read and agree to each of the sections, and then complete the:

- [Agreement & Signature](#)
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### Belonging Policy

Approval Date: 2025-09-04 • Effective Date: 2025-06-03 • Version: 1.1 • Approved by: Interim Council

#### 1. Purpose

Ronin Institute of Independent Scholarship 2.0 (RIIS 2.0) is an organization that celebrates the broad range of places in the world where RIIS 2.0 Affiliates (Fellows and Associates) live and work. RIIS 2.0 seeks to foster a convivial environment of belonging for all. Our pursuit of truth and empathy is deeply embedded in our policies, encouraging a variety of interactions to provide a balanced, all-encompassing, and accessible environment to create a sense of belonging for all RIIS 2.0 Affiliates from any location and type of background.

RIIS 2.0 agrees to be guided by these principles and pledges that they will be reflected in our vision, mission, strategic planning, programming, governance, and leadership composition. RIIS 2.0 is committed to creating an environment of belonging where all staff, RIIS 2.0 Affiliates, partners, and vendors are treated with respect and dignity. Our commitment also extends to programs we develop and support.

#### 2. Belonging

It is the experience of belonging in which each Affiliate is wholly accepted and included by those who are Affiliates of RIIS 2.0. Belonging involves engaging the full potential of scholars where innovation can thrive, reinforced by the wealth of knowledge we gain from each other. We respect all beliefs and values grounded in truth and empathy. RIIS 2.0 is committed to acting with compassion and kindness to create an Institute that nurtures psychological safety and actively welcomes, connects, and values everyone. Belonging means that Affiliates feel seen, heard, respected, and their work valued.

#### 2. Truths

RIIS 2.0 Affiliates from all disciplines shall seek truths in pursuit of a better understanding of our world and the universe within which it resides. RIIS 2.0 expects that Affiliates will be honest and thoughtful, both in scholarship and in their interactions with the community and world at large.

### 3. Empathy

RIIS 2.0 expects its Affiliates to interact in a spirit of kindness, generosity, and patience. We are a highly interdisciplinary and international community with a broad variety of Affiliates' perspectives and backgrounds. Empathy demands that one act in good faith and assume good faith from others.

### 4. Local to Global Context

RIIS 2.0 aims to support effective and recognized pathways for implementing and maintaining indigenous sovereignty and data rights, and to facilitate ethical relationships that enable collaboration with stewards of native populations' intellectual property, cultural and other heritage, genetic resources, and knowledge.

RIIS 2.0 acknowledges that to make meaningful change and have a significant impact, our work must represent and reflect the experiences and perspectives of not just the Global North but of all humanity's voices throughout the entire world.

### 5. Accessibility

RIIS 2.0 is committed to ensuring that its organizational tools and website are accessible to people with varying abilities. All the pages on our website will endeavor to meet W3C WAI's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1, Level AA conformance.

### 6. Values

RIIS 2.0 and its officers, directors, Affiliates, employees, and persons served by RIIS 2.0 shall be selected in a fair manner, taking into account the legal foundation in the [Code of Conduct](#). RIIS 2.0 recognizes that its organizational effectiveness is enhanced when a range of viewpoints are reflected and protected throughout the organization, both at a governance level and staff or volunteer level.

RIIS 2.0 is committed to incorporating the values of our Belonging Policy in its governance and operations. RIIS 2.0 believes everyone has the expectation to work in a professional environment where their knowledge, skills, and abilities are the factors for their success. RIIS 2.0 expects all Affiliates to treat everyone professionally and proactively alleviate partiality. Our expectations for behavior are described in more detail in our [Code of Conduct](#).

RIIS 2.0 strives to foster an atmosphere where every Affiliate of our institute feels valued, respected, supported, and inspired to achieve individual and common goals, encouraging full participation in the life and leadership of RIIS 2.0. RIIS 2.0 understands the importance of integration and works hard to respect everyone, acknowledge and value differences, and use those differences to strengthen our shared intellectual commons.

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## Code of Conduct

Approval Date: 2025-09-04 • Effective Date: 2025-06-03 • Version: 1.1 • Approved by: Interim Council

### 1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct provides guidelines for how Affiliates (Fellows and Associates) or staff of the Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship 2.0 (RIIS 2.0) are expected to behave at all times. This Code of Conduct applies to all venues, including, but not limited to, RIIS 2.0 venues where Affiliates or staff may interact with other people. This Code of Conduct also applies to any time or place where we gather, including, but not limited to, places that are funded by or through, and/or represent RIIS 2.0 (including during travel for RIIS 2.0-related purposes). This Code of Conduct codifies the expectations of behavior of RIIS 2.0 to align with the values contained in the [Belonging Policy](#).

Our goal is to work together to help support a safe environment for everyone. As a community, we commit to enforcing this code as our Institute grows. This document is provided to Affiliates and employees upon joining RIIS 2.0 and is used as guidance to assess any behavioral issues that might come up. Importantly, this Code of Conduct helps to establish the culture that we want for our community.

## **2. Core Principles of Conduct**

RIIS 2.0 aims for a flat, non-hierarchical structure, where every person here is, first and foremost, of equal standing. RIIS's Code of Conduct boils down to common sense and basic manners, but here are a few rules of thumb:

### **Be kind:**

Be attentive to people's personal boundaries, and seek consent as much as possible. Be thoughtful when talking with or about each other; consider your word choices carefully. Remember that tone can be hard to judge online. Instead of labeling or classifying people, describe people's actions or behaviors. Recognize people's capacity to learn, grow, and change. Sometimes, we make mistakes. Let's assume that we each hope to do better.

### **Be open-minded:**

There will doubtless be opportunities for spirited discussion, which will sometimes become heated. That's a good thing, so long as we value different perspectives with an open and listening mind. One must challenge one's own assumptions about oneself and others.

### **Practice fairness:**

We should all be working to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate, share their ideas, and feel valued. Keep an eye out for opportunities to engage people who might feel less confident. Speak plainly, and avoid acronyms, jargon, slang, and idioms; some GIFs/emojis might not translate across cultures. Physical appearance, clothing, and demographic characteristics are unlikely to be germane to any of your conversations at RIIS 2.0. Offer clear and constructive comments that are helpful rather than critical. Be a humble expert and avoid lecturing. Be conscious of who is doing the heavy lifting in groups and activities (note-taking, scheduling, document creation, organizing). Aim to involve, rather than omit, as well as to flatten our power structures through sharing authority.

### **Be responsible:**

We are all responsible for upholding the professional reputation and culture of RIIS 2.0 whenever and wherever we are associated with it. RIIS 2.0 funds and assets (including names, logos, email addresses, and websites) must be used responsibly, legally, and ethically.

### **Be proactive:**

As a community, we are responsible for our institutional culture. Look out for opportunities where we can proactively shape our culture rather than letting events or our reactions shape our culture for us. If you experience or witness any harassment that is occurring and you feel safe doing so, RIIS 2.0 supports your efforts to call out harassment (describe it for what it is and ask the individual to stop) and support anyone who may be affected. You are also encouraged to reach out to any of the Code of Conduct contacts (below) to let someone know what happened.

### **Act In Good Faith and Assume Good Faith from Others:**

Two of our core values at RIIS 2.0 are Truth and Empathy. To embody these, Affiliates should come prepared to engage with each other in good faith, presenting thoughts and ideas honestly and clearly, and listening to others with an open mind.

RIIS 2.0 Affiliates are a multifaceted group, representing different academic disciplines, career stages, cultures, and sets of obligations and constraints. We each have different career and life goals, as well as backgrounds and cultural contexts.

Always take a breath and remind yourself that there is a person on the other side of the conversation. Work under the assumption that they, like you, are intelligent and well-intentioned. Remember that we're all in this together, and it is not a zero-sum game. Anything that helps one of our RIIS 2.0 Affiliates achieve their own goals helps the entire community. Our job is to provide mutual support in a way that will help each person benefit from RIIS 2.0 and achieve success on their own terms.

### 3. Community Conduct

#### **Compliance with Law:**

We comply with the law, including the laws governing nonprofit organizations and workplace behavior. We understand that, as a charity, we operate exclusively for public benefit and not for private purposes, and we are subject to stringent rules relating to conflicts of interest and political activities. We expect Affiliates and employees to understand the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to their role, including federal, state, and foreign laws, as well as the relevant regulatory schemes. All Affiliates and employees are also expected to act with integrity and to exercise good judgment and common sense in their efforts to comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and are encouraged to ask for advice when they are uncertain about them.

The organization shall comply with all applicable anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI, Title VII, and Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 ADAAA. 42 U.S.C. ch 126 12101 et seq. that prohibit unfavorable treatment of any legally protected characteristics of individuals in its programs, activities, employment, and governance.

#### **Harassment**

RIIS 2.0 has a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, unfair treatment, other kinds of harassment (including, but not limited to, sexual harassment), or bullying of any kind. “**Harassment**” is defined as unwelcome conduct that deprives another individual of the opportunities and peaceful enjoyment they may take from participating in the community or an activity, when the perpetrator knows or ought to know that the conduct is unwelcome. Harassment can be a one-time severe event or repeated minor offenses.

We do not tolerate harassment in any form. Different types of harassing actions include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive verbal or written comments related to sex, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion, etc
- Deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, bullying, or hostility
- Threats or acts of violence
- Unauthorized photography or recording, including making public recordings or screenshots of online discussions conducted through RIIS 2.0 platforms (e.g., Slack, Discord, Zoom) without permission of the participants.
- Sustained disruption of events or discussions
- Sexual advances or suggestive behavior/language
- Microaggressions, which are everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages and serve to exclude others
- Retaliation against anyone who reports a potential Code of Conduct violation
- Advocating for or encouraging any of the above behaviors

#### **Other Issues:**

Code of Conduct violations also include:

- Deliberate misrepresentation of research or scholarship

- Violation of confidentiality agreements or privacy expectations (see above)

Affiliates and employees are expected to comply with all applicable policies of RIIS 2.0, including any related to non-discrimination and conflicts of interest.

**A RIIS 2.0 Affiliate who is asked by any person to stop behaviors that breach the Code of Conduct is expected to cease those behaviors immediately.** All breaches of the Code of Conduct are taken seriously, and RIIS 2.0 will take action as needed.

#### 4. Report concerns

If you are being harassed, intimidated, or have any other concerns, please follow our [Conflict Resolution Policy](#) immediately. If you are unsure whether the incident is a violation or whether the space where it happened is covered by this Code of Conduct, we still encourage you to report it. We pledge to listen and follow this policy to help Affiliates feel safe and comfortable at RIIS 2.0.

All reports will be kept confidential. Any conflicts of interest will be managed to ensure that your concern is addressed fairly. RIIS 2.0 does not tolerate retaliation against or the victimization of any RIIS 2.0 Affiliate who raises concerns or questions regarding a potential violation of the Code of Conduct.

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## Conflict Resolution Policy

Approval Date: 2025-09-04 • Effective Date: 2025-06-10 • Version: 1.1 • Approved by: Interim Council

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines a procedure that is designed to address conduct issues and conflicts, defined as formal complaints related to violations of RIIS 2.0 policies, including but not limited to the [Code of Conduct](#) and [Belonging Policy](#), in a transparent, fair, and non-retaliatory manner.

### 2. Scope

This procedure applies to:

- All RIIS 2.0 Affiliates, including Fellows and Associates.
- Actions that could lead to misconduct in financial reporting are unlawful and are inconsistent with announced policies or procedures or otherwise amount to serious improper conduct. The Conflict Resolution Policy is intended to encourage and enable a reporting person to raise serious concerns within RIIS 2.0 before seeking resolution outside of the RIIS 2.0. Such conduct could include questionable accounting reports or internal controls, unethical business conduct, concerns about health risks, sexual harassment, or discrimination based on race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability within RIIS 2.0.

### 3. Principles

- **Fairness:** All parties have a right to be heard and treated equitably.
- **Confidentiality:** Disclosures are handled with discretion to the extent possible.
- **Impartiality:** Oversight is conducted by individuals without direct conflicts of interest.
- **Restorative Orientation:** Where feasible, processes seek restoration over disciplinary actions.

## 4. Submission of statements of concern

A statement of concern may be submitted to any of the Council members of RIIS 2.0 listed on the RIIS 2.0 website (or to the email for the Council as a whole listed on the website), whose responsibility is to begin the investigative process. Please see the preliminary investigation description below.

Submissions must include:

- Full name and contact information of the complainant.
- Detailed description of the concern or conflict (including names, dates, and evidence).
- Desired resolution (if any).
- Whether the complainant would prefer to remain anonymous.
  - a. Note: We cannot guarantee anonymity; however, we will make a good faith effort upon request of the complainant, including keeping testimony or evidence in a secure location with limited access. In addition, efforts to maintain anonymity may limit the investigation scope.

Statements of concern about events older than 2 years after the complainant was made aware will be investigated only at the discretion of the Council.

## 5. Investigation

- Acknowledgment of receipt within **30 days** by the receiving Council member.
- Preliminary investigation conducted by the receiving Council member and a subset of the Council group. The preliminary investigation can have three possible results:
  - a. **Dismissed** for insufficient evidence, if deemed frivolous, or outside the purview of RIIS 2.0.
  - b. **Referred** to the appropriate parties if minor or administrative.
  - c. **Advanced to review** if substantive and actionable.
- If **Advanced to review**:
  - The receiving Council member will recommend a **Conflict Resolution Panel** (the “**Panel**”) of three impartial members to the Council, which will approve the composition of the members.
  - The complainant and the respondent will be interviewed by the Panel, as well as relevant witnesses as needed, and evidence will be collected.
  - The complainant will be notified and given the opportunity to respond.
  - All participants in the investigation must maintain confidentiality about the investigation.
  - The Panel will issue a set of findings and recommend an outcome.

## 6. Findings and Outcomes

The results of the conflict resolution process are referred to the Council. This includes all preliminary investigation outcomes—whether dismissal, referral, or advancement to review with Panel involvement. If a case is advanced to a review and a Panel is convened, the Panel’s findings and recommended outcome are submitted to the Council. The Council will review all relevant information and issue a final outcome. If a Panel investigation were conducted, the outcome would include a summary of its findings. In all cases, the Council will recommend one of the following outcomes, which can include:

- **A finding of Insufficient Evidence / Dismissal**
- **Informal resolution** (e.g., mediated apology, restorative circle)
- **Formal action**, such as:
  - a. Written warning.
  - b. Temporary suspension.
  - c. Termination of Affiliation.

Outcomes are communicated from the Council to all directly involved parties in writing. In rare cases, RIIS 2.0 may be ethically or legally required to issue a public statement regarding the conflict to clarify its position or protect its integrity; individuals involved will be notified in advance.

## 7. Appeals

Appeals may be filed within **14 days** of the outcome notice, limited to:

- New evidence.
- Procedural error.
- Disproportionate sanction.

Appeals are reviewed by a separate, Council-appointed 3-member panel (the “**Appeals Panel**”), and their recommendation is referred to the Council. No member of the original preliminary investigation or review process may serve on the Appeals Panel. The Council’s decision after review of the appeal is final.

## 8. Recordkeeping and Transparency

- A secure log of reported issues is maintained by the Council.
- Aggregated, de-identified annual reports may be published for transparency.
- Records will be maintained for a minimum of 7 years.

## 9. Protection Against Retaliation

RIIS 2.0 prohibits retaliation against any individual for:

- Reporting to the Council, or to a federal, state, or local agency, what the complainant believes in good faith to be illegal, fraudulent, or in violation of any policy of the RIIS 2.0.
- Participating in good faith in any resulting investigation or proceeding.
- Exercising his or her rights under any state or federal law(s) or regulation(s) to pursue a claim or take legal action to protect the complainant’s rights.

RIIS 2.0 may take disciplinary action (up to and including termination) against an officer, director, employee, or volunteer who has engaged in retaliatory conduct in violation of this policy.

## 10. Jurisdiction and Legal Disclaimer

Nothing in this policy limits the legal rights of any party to seek recourse under applicable local, state, or federal laws.

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# Terms of Service

Approval Date: 2025-09-04 • Effective Date: 2025-06-10 • Version: 1.1 • Approved by: Interim Council

This Affiliation Terms of Service applies to **Affiliates** of the Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship 2.0 (hereafter referred to as **RIIS 2.0**), a nonprofit organization based in the United States of America.

The Council of RIIS 2.0 (“**Council**”) or a working group designated by the Council (the “**Working Group**”) shall oversee compliance with these Terms. The Council retains sole legal authority to enforce compliance.

## 1. Definitions

**1.1. “Affiliate”**: An individual who is formally accepted through an application process managed by the Council into RIIS 2.0 as either a “**Fellow**” (dues-paying, voting affiliate) or an “**Associate**” (non-dues-paying, non-voting affiliate).

**1.2 “Affiliation”:** The status of being an Affiliate.

**1.3. “Termination of Affiliation”:** An Affiliate’s voluntary termination of Affiliation or involuntary termination of Affiliation and removal from RIIS 2.0 by a decision of the Council.

**1.4. “Services”:** Institutional benefits that RIIS 2.0 provides to Affiliates.

## 2. Contract

As an Affiliate, you agree to the terms included in this document.

**2.1. Affiliation.** Your affiliation at RIIS 2.0 is contingent on the process outlined in our [Bylaws](#). Termination of Affiliation may occur as a result of failure to meet dues obligations, eligibility requirements, or engaging in conduct detrimental to the Institute’s mission and values. Likewise, you may cancel your Affiliation at any time for any or no reason with no adverse legal consequences, and there will be no refunds of any membership dues already paid.

**2.2. Relationship of the Parties** Affiliation at RIIS 2.0 does not create employment, direct financial benefits, or a joint venture relationship between you and RIIS 2.0.

**2.3. Privacy Policy.** Your affiliation in RIIS 2.0 is subject to our [Privacy Policy](#), which covers how we collect, use, share, and store your personal information.

**2.4 Acknowledgment.** By checking the box labeled "I agree to the Terms of Service" during the application process, you acknowledge that affiliation is a privilege, not a right, and that renewal is not guaranteed.

**2.5. Changes.** RIIS 2.0 may make changes to the terms, bylaws, policy, procedures, and conditions of affiliation according to processes specified in the [Bylaws](#) and subject to Council approval and membership ratification. Likewise, we may also modify our Privacy Policy. If we make material changes to these terms, we will provide you with notice through standard communication venues like our website and via email. We agree that changes cannot be retroactive. If you object to any changes, you may cancel your Affiliation.

By continuing your Affiliation at RIIS 2.0 after we publish or send a notice about changes, you consent to any updated terms.

**2.6. Governance Disclaimer.** While the Council of RIIS 2.0 endeavors to act with fairness and diligence, decisions made may be subject to human or procedural error. The Institute assumes no legal liability for such omissions or errors but will make reasonable efforts to correct them upon identification.

## 3. Obligations

**3.1. Affirmation of Eligibility.** By agreeing to these terms, you affirm the following:

- You are 18 years or older.
- You will create only one RIIS 2.0 Affiliation application using your preferred name (“also known as” names) and administrative name; submitting an application with false information is a violation of our terms.
- You have not been denied or removed from Affiliation at RIIS 2.0 in the past.
- You can demonstrate academic achievement and scholarly commitment equivalent to at least one year of study at an accredited university

**3.2. Online Accounts.** As an Affiliate, you may have an online account created for your use by RIIS 2.0. If such an online account is created, you agree to:

- Use a strong password and keep it confidential.
- Not share an account with anyone else.
- Be responsible for anything that happens through your account unless you close it or report misuse before any



incident occurs.

**3.3. Payment Required for Fellows.** If an Affiliate is joining as a Fellow, membership dues are due annually, and you agree to honor your payment obligations. There may be processing fees and taxes added to membership dues. Other than in special circumstances at the discretion of the Council, once membership dues are paid, there are no refunds, either full or partial, in the event of a Termination of Affiliation..

**3.4. Notices and Messages.** Affiliates agree to receive general communication with RIIS 2.0, which may include communication through our website, emails, and collaborative workspace.

To ensure that you receive timely communication from RIIS 2.0, you agree to:

- Keep your email address up-to-date in our records.
- Check your email for communications from us at least once a month.

**3.5. Information Sharing.** Any information that you provide to RIIS 2.0 regarding your Affiliation is expected to be accurate; it is your responsibility to keep it as updated as possible.

It is expected that your RIIS 2.0 profile is truthful. You should not create a false identity at RIIS 2.0, misrepresent your identity, create an Affiliate profile for anyone other than yourself without permission, or use or attempt to use another Affiliate's account without permission.

Your expressed views and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of RIIS 2.0. RIIS 2.0 may be required by law in certain countries to remove certain information or content on our website or other public-facing platforms. If you are an Affiliate offering services via RIIS 2.0 communication platforms, you represent and warrant that you have all required licenses and will provide services consistent with generally accepted professional standards.

**3.6. Expectations.** RIIS 2.0 is a community of professionals; therefore, you are expected to use RIIS 2.0 Services in a professional manner. As an Affiliate, you agree to comply with all applicable laws, including, without limitation, privacy laws, intellectual property laws, anti-spam laws, export control laws, tax laws, and regulatory requirements.

You agree to abide by the:

- [Belonging Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)

You agree that you have read and acknowledged the:

- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Conflict Resolution Policy](#)

You agree that you will *not*:

- Develop, support or use software, devices, scripts, robots or any other means or processes (including crawlers, bots, browser plugins, and add-ons, or any other technology) to scrape non-public data available only for Affiliates from the Services (e.g., including but not limited to, posts on RIIS 2.0 workspaces, email contact details, or internal documents only available to Affiliates) without explicit permission from Council;
- Override any security feature, or bypass or circumvent any access controls or use limits of the Service;
- Interfere with the operation of, or place an unreasonable load on, the Services (e.g., spam, denial of service attack, viruses, gaming algorithms);
- Disclose information that you do not have the permission to disclose (such as confidential information of others);
- Intentionally post anything that contains software viruses, worms, or any other harmful code;
- Imply or state that you are affiliated with or endorsed by RIIS 2.0 after the Termination of Affiliation. However, if the underlying work for a scholarly activity was largely started and carried out while affiliated with RIIS 2.0, the

affiliation on papers or other research outputs submitted or published after the termination of the Affiliation is permitted; and/or

- Violate other institutional policies at RIIS 2.0.

## 4. Rights and Limitations

**4.1. Other Content and Sites.** Your use of others' content and information posted on the RIIS 2.0 website is at your own risk. RIIS 2.0 does not review all of the content provided by our Affiliates or others on our website. Likewise, we do not endorse, supervise, or monitor any services offered by Affiliates or third parties on our website or communication platforms, or any third-party events that may be listed.

RIIS 2.0 may help you register for and/or attend events organized by Affiliates and connect with other Affiliates who are attendees at such events. You agree that RIIS 2.0 is not responsible for the conduct of any attendees at such events.

**4.2. Content and Intellectual Property.** RIIS 2.0 values open scholarship and respects the ownership of work you create. By default, you retain all rights to your own work. Before you submit content (such as a blog post, publication, contributions to shared documents through Working Groups, or software) for inclusion on official RIIS 2.0 platforms, you may be required to grant a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to RIIS 2.0 to use, reproduce, and share the content for scholarly or promotional purposes only. If any such license is required, it will be **clearly stated at the point of submission**. Informal contributions (such as chat messages or discussions) are not subject to any license.

RIIS 2.0 retains rights to materials it creates directly or commissions, including official website content, publications, software, and branding. You agree not to copy, distribute, or modify RIIS 2.0 intellectual property — including its name and logo — for commercial purposes or in a way that implies institutional endorsement without permission.

You may use the RIIS 2.0 name or logo in contexts that reflect your affiliation — for example, on a personal website or business card — as long as it is clear you are acting as an individual Affiliate, not on behalf of the organization.

You also agree to ensure that any content you submit does not violate the law, infringe on the intellectual property or other rights of third parties.

**4.3. No Warranty.** RIIS 2.0 provides no warranty about the delivery of Services, including assuring that Services will be uninterrupted and error-free; RIIS 2.0 provides Services on an “as is” and “as available” basis.

**4.4. Exclusion of Liability.** RIIS 2.0 will not be liable for lost profits or lost business opportunities, reputation (e.g., offensive or defamatory statements), loss of data (e.g., downtime or loss, use of, or changes to, your information or content), or any indirect, incidental, consequential, special or punitive damages that may occur during your Affiliation at the RIIS 2.0.

The limitations of liability in this section are part of the basis of the agreement between you (the Affiliate) and RIIS 2.0 and shall apply to all claims of liability (e.g., warranty, tort, negligence, contract, and law) even if RIIS 2.0 has been told of the possibility of any such damage, and even if these remedies fail their essential purpose.

These limitations of liability do not apply to liability for death or personal injury or for fraud, gross negligence or intentional misconduct, or in cases of negligence where a material obligation has been breached, a material obligation being such which forms a prerequisite to our delivery of services and on which you may reasonably rely, but only to the extent that the damages were directly caused by the breach and were foreseeable upon conclusion of this Contract and to the extent that they are typical in the context of this Contract.

**4.5. Disclaimer.** The views and opinions expressed by Affiliates of RIIS 2.0, whether on public platforms, in publications, or in internal discussions, are solely those of the individual and do not necessarily reflect the views, positions, or policies of the Ronin Institute as an organization. RIIS 2.0 reserves the right to moderate, remove, or restrict content that violates community guidelines or applicable law.

## 5. Termination

Upon your Termination, you lose the right to access or use any Services of RIIS 2.0. Outside of these Services, the Terms of Service described in this document shall survive termination.

## 6. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

**6.1. Enforceability.** If a court with authority over this Terms of Service contract finds any part of it unenforceable, you and RIIS 2.0 agree that the court should modify the terms to achieve its intent. If the court cannot do that, you and RIIS 2.0 agree to ask the court to remove that unenforceable part and enforce the remainder of this contract.

This contract (including additional terms that may be provided by us when you engage with a feature of the Services) is the only agreement regarding RIIS 2.0 Services and supersedes all prior agreements for Services.

If RIIS 2.0 does not enforce a breach of this contract, that does not mean that RIIS 2.0 has waived its right to enforce it. You may not assign or transfer this contract (or your Affiliation or use of Services) to anyone without our consent.

**6.2. Binding Arbitration.** In the event of any dispute, claim, or controversy arising out of or relating to this agreement or the breach, termination, enforcement, interpretation, or validity thereof, including the scope or applicability of this agreement to arbitrate, the parties agree to submit the matter to **binding arbitration**.

- Arbitration shall be administered by the **American Arbitration Association (AAA)** under its **Nonprofit Sector Rules**, or by a mutually agreed-upon alternative.
- The arbitration shall take place in **California**, unless both parties agree to a remote format or a different venue.
- **Each party shall bear its own legal costs and fees**, unless the arbitrator determines that one party has acted in bad faith or vexatiously.
- The arbitrator shall have the authority to grant equitable relief or remedies that a court of law could provide, and the award shall be final and binding upon the parties.
- Judgment on the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

This clause shall survive the termination of Affiliation.

## 7. Contact and Concerns

For general inquiries, you may contact us online via our website. For legal notices or service of process, you may write to us at Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship 2.0, 2108 N ST STE N Sacramento, CA 95816, USA.

Affiliates may file concerns, which will be addressed in accordance with the organization's [Conflict Resolution Policy](#).

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## Privacy Policy

Approval Date: 2025-09-04 • Effective Date: 2025-05-27 • Version: 1.1 • Approved by: Interim Council

**Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship 2.0 (“RIIS 2.0”, “we,” or “our”)** values the privacy of its Affiliates, contributors, collaborators, and website visitors. This Privacy Policy explains what information we collect, how we use it, and your rights in relation to that information. We’ve tried to keep this policy as simple as possible, but if you have any questions about the policy, please contact us by e-mail at [privacy@ronininstitute.org](mailto:privacy@ronininstitute.org).

### Index

#### [1. Information We Collect](#)

##### [a. Personal Information](#)

##### [b. Technical Information](#)

[c. Cookies and Tracking](#)

[2. How We Collect Your Information](#)

[3. How We Use Your Information](#)

[4. International Information Sharing and Disclosure](#)

[5. Data Security](#)

[6. Your Rights](#)

[7. Data Retention](#)

[8. Children's Privacy](#)

[9. Third-Party Services](#)

[10. Updates to This Policy](#)

[11. Contact](#)

## 1. Information We Collect

Personal and technical information is non-public information that personally identifies you or your technological activity. We may collect personal and technical information, including your:

### a. Personal Information

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Mailing address
- Academic or professional affiliations
- Donation and membership data

### b. Technical Information

- IP address
- Browser type
- Pages visited
- Time spent on site
- Device information

### c. Cookies and Tracking

We use cookies for analytics and functionality. Users will be presented with a cookie consent banner and given the option to accept or decline non-essential cookies in accordance with GDPR requirements.

## 2. How We Collect Your Information

We collect personal information when you give it to us directly. For example, we collect it when you talk to us over text, audio/video chat, or phone, or in video or in-person meetings with RIIS 2.0 personnel, when you register for an account, or when you make service requests. We may automatically collect technical information from you when you use our online services. If we associate any other information with personal information we collect from you, we will treat the combined information as personal information as described here.

### 3. How We Use Your Information

- a. We process your personal data under the following legal bases:
  - a. **Consent** – for email communications, cookies, and voluntary participation in RIIS 2.0 activities and events.
  - b. **Contractual necessity** – to manage your membership and participation.
  - c. **Legal obligation** – for tax and recordkeeping.
  - d. **Legitimate interests** – to improve services and analyze engagement.
- b. We use personal information to improve our services and operations. Your data may be used for the following purposes:
  - a. Communicating with you about events, updates, and opportunities
  - b. Managing participation in programs or working groups
  - c. Processing donations and issuing receipts
  - d. Compiling internal reports on engagement
  - e. Complying with legal obligations or enforcing policies

### 4. International Information Sharing and Disclosure

- a. **GDPR.** RIIS 2.0 is the data controller for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ('GDPR') for any personal data collected from individuals located in the European Union.
- b. **International Transfers.** Your personal data may be transferred to and processed in countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA), including the United States. In such cases, we ensure appropriate safeguards are in place, such as Standard Contractual Clauses approved by the European Commission.
- c. **Sharing and Disclosure.** We do **not sell, rent, or trade** personal information. We may share data:
  - a. With trusted service providers (e.g., email platforms, payment processors) under data protection agreements;
  - b. When required by law (e.g., court orders, legal process), or
  - c. With your explicit consent

### 5. Data Security

We implement administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect your personal information. While no system is 100% secure, we strive to use best practices, including encryption, access controls, and secure data storage. We limit our liability for third-party vendors and data security breaches.

When you share information on a RIIS 2.0 website, a collaborative workspace designated by RIIS 2.0 (e.g., Slack or Discord), or other open-ended group communication tools, Members and others may be able to see, copy, and use that information unless you have explicitly marked it as private in your account settings.

### 6. Your Rights

- a. You have the right to:
  - a. Access your personal data
  - b. Rectify inaccuracies
  - c. Erase your data ("right to be forgotten")
  - d. Restrict or object to processing
  - e. Data portability
  - f. Lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority
  - g. Withdraw consent at any time without affecting prior lawful processing

Where we have made privacy settings available, we will honor the choices you make about who can see your content or information, including restricting your profile visibility from search engines. Residents of the EU have the "right to be

forgotten”, and we will make every attempt to comply with rules under GDPR. To make a request, contact us at [privacy@ronininstitute.org](mailto:privacy@ronininstitute.org).

We are not obligated to publish any information or content on our Website or our platforms, and can remove content with or without notice. Likewise, we have no obligation to store, maintain, or provide you a copy of any content or information that you or others provide, except to the extent required by section 6 of this agreement (“Your Rights”) or by applicable law

## 7. Data Retention

We retain personal data only for as long as is necessary for the purposes stated above, and in accordance with applicable law. Where no specific legal requirement applies, we will delete or anonymize personal data within 24 months of the termination of affiliation with RIIS 2.0. Donation records may be retained per IRS standards.

## 8. Children’s Privacy

RIIS 2.0 does not knowingly collect personal information from individuals under 18. If we discover that such information has been collected, it will be promptly deleted. If an individual under 18 has provided personal information, a parent or guardian may alert us at and we will, subject to applicable law and other provisions of this policy, use commercially reasonable efforts to delete it.

## 9. Third-Party Services

RIIS 2.0 may use third parties to provide content, services, or platforms. We are not responsible for their privacy policies and data security supplied by third parties. Please review those separately.

## 10. Updates to This Policy

We may revise this policy periodically. The effective date at the top reflects the most recent changes. Substantive changes will be communicated via email or website notice.

## 11. Contact

For privacy-related questions, concerns, or requests, contact: **Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship 2.0** at [privacy@ronininstitute.org](mailto:privacy@ronininstitute.org)

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# Agreement and Signature

## Review & Agreement

Please review the RIIS 2.0 Affiliation Agreement and indicate your agreement and acknowledgment by checking all the boxes.

- ☐ I agree to abide by the Belonging Policy
- ☐ I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct
- ☐ I have read and acknowledge the Conflict Resolution Policy
- ☐ I agree to the Terms of Service
- ☐ I have read and acknowledge the Privacy Policy

## Electronic Signature

By typing your full legal name below and submitting this form, you affirm that:

- You are the person named in this submission.
- You agree to or acknowledge the policies listed above as indicated.
- You understand that your typed name, along with the associated email address and timestamp, constitutes your electronic signature and is intended to be legally binding under applicable law.

Please type your full legal name to serve as your electronic signature:

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

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