

An introduction to the
Institute of Andean Studies

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The Institute of Andean Studies was the vision of John H. Rowe (1918–2004), a pioneering archaeologist and ethnohistorian of the Inka and professor of anthropology at University of California, Berkeley, who founded it in 1960. Per the articles of incorporation, the primary purpose of the Institute is

“...to organize, sponsor, and assist field, museum and library research and study in archaeology, history, linguistics, ethnology and biology of the native peoples of Colombia, and of that area of South America which was formerly the Inca Empire, and which presently comprises northwestern Argentina, northern Chile, and the countries of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia; to publish a journal and issue other sundry publications reporting the results of such research; to sponsor meetings and conferences for the purpose of discussion of results of such research and the problems pertaining thereto...”

The Institute is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation with no connection to the University of California or any other government agency. It is an entirely volunteer organization with no paid staff, officers, or directors; no office of its own; and virtually no property other than a modest invested reserve or endowment. As of 2022, it is governed by a board of five directors with the help of a Community Relations Officer elected by the members and a number of other officers elected by the board, reporting to and directed by the membership at its Annual Meeting of the Members (the Business Meeting) and increasingly online.

The Institute holds its Annual Meeting of the Members (the Business Meeting) in early January to finalize election of Directors and address other business.

Associated with the Business Meeting is a Scientific Meeting, usually called simply the Annual Meeting, at which members and non-members present and discuss findings of research on Andean themes.

Through 2020, these meetings were held in person over two days in Berkeley, California, with typically about 120 participants discussing 21 research presentations and eight to a dozen posters in a friendly setting meant to encourage networking and social contact. Usually slightly under half of the attendees were members; about a quarter were students; and about an eighth came from outside the US. The focus was on archaeological field research, artifact analysis, and other archaeological approaches to the Andean past, and on intersecting studies involving architecture, textiles, art history, semiotics, sociocultural anthropology, ethnohistory, ethnomusicology, ethnopharmacology, and other fields. Presentations and posters were largely but not entirely on prehistoric themes. Historical periods were slighted in practice, but not by policy, with some vague cutoff date before the modern period generally assumed. Some presentations and discussions were in Spanish. The meetings concluded with a public evening keynote presentation by an invited speaker, followed by a reception. The scope and nature of the Annual Meeting changed in 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic that reached the US in early 2020 pushed the Scientific Meetings of 2021 and 2022 online, with fees waived, and coincided with two efforts to enhance the Institute.

First, a Working Group on Ethical Conduct in Andean Studies drafted a Code of Conduct and statement of shared ethical commitments related to dimensions of safe educational, workplace, and research climates, starting with provisions on unlawful discrimination, sexual misconduct, retaliation, and related behaviors.

Second, a Blue Ribbon Commission on Engaging Africans and their Descendants in Andean Studies produced a report assessing their theme and recommending responses.

Both work products are available on the IAS website and are worth reading. They guided changes adopted during 2020 and 2021, and planned for 2022, through revisions to the Institute's bylaws, articles of incorporation, and practices, and through adjustments to the 2021 and 2022 virtual Annual Meetings. Changes included increasing the number of Directors from three to five; establishing a Community Relations Officer; ratifying a Statement of Shared Ethical Commitments, Code of Conduct, and Related Policies; reemphasizing the Institute's original breadth of topical and temporal focus and specifically including people of African descent and other groups; and measures to increase openness and inclusivity in the Institute's activities.

The free and virtual Annual Meetings aligned well with the renewed goals and broad thematic focus of the Institute, and greatly increased the number and diversity of participants.

For in-person Annual Meetings, the Institute awards a competitive annual travel grant of up to \$2,500 to help a Latin American scholar attend the meeting. The grantee gives a special extended presentation. For the virtual Annual Meetings of 2021 and 2022, the Travel Grant funds were instead divided as Presentation Awards evenly among first authors of presentations from South America who wished to participate in the Awards program.

The Institute publishes a journal, *Ñawpa Pacha*, on paper and online, covering generally the same themes as the meetings. It circulates on paper to members who wish to receive it and who also access the entire journal archive online through the IAS website; through complimentary subscriptions for 36 mostly Latin American institutions that could not otherwise afford it; to academics through over 2,700 institutional subscriptions (as of 2020) handled by the publisher Taylor & Francis; to anybody willing to pay to download an article directly from the publisher's website; to academics through institutional subscriptions to JSTOR after a 7-year embargo; and to the online public for free through JSTOR's "Register & Read" program, again with the 7-year embargo. *Ñawpa Pacha* is indexed in the Scopus Abstract and Citation Database by Elsevier.

The Institute maintains a website that seasonally supports the virtual or in-person Annual Meeting and provides an archive of past Annual Meeting programs and abstracts, streaming video of some past Travel Grantee and Keynote presentations, and institutional information and facilities such as a way for members to pay dues online. The Institute also has a Facebook page that shares information about conferences, books, research opportunities, and so on, and an Instagram account with related content.

Members of the Institute are nominated by other members, and elected by the board of directors. Election usually requires that the nominee have completed a terminal degree (usually, but not

always, a PhD in the US, or a Licenciatura in Latin America) in a relevant field and have shown interest in the Institute, often by presenting a paper or poster at an Institute meeting, publishing in or helping with *Ñawpa Pacha*, or significantly participating in Annual Meetings. Membership is meant to be a small endorsement or honor that might be useful to the member. Membership lasts indefinitely unless terminated for cause or at the member's request, regardless of payment of dues. In the past, the board occasionally named people as Research Associates to facilitate permit, grant, and other procedures, but this practice has been largely abandoned. Discussion continues about how to increase involvement of students and other non-members while also retaining the honorific aspect of the nominated membership structure.

As of January 1, 2022, the Institute had 383 members, including:

- 330 Active members, who are asked to pay annual \$50 dues, vote on business matters, and receive *Ñawpa Pacha* on paper and online if they pay their dues (except 11 in households with two Active members who ask to pay one set of dues and get one copy of *Ñawpa Pacha*);
- 47 Corresponding members, generally residents in Latin America, who do not pay dues or vote, but do receive *Ñawpa Pacha* on paper and online; and
- 6 Honorary members, recognized for distinguished service to Andean Studies of a long period, who do not pay dues but do vote and receive *Ñawpa Pacha* on paper and online.

Of the 330 Active members, 210 had paid dues for 2021 by the end of that year. The membership has never been surveyed for racial, ethnic, or gender identity.

In the last four pre-Covid fiscal years (through June 2019), the Institute averaged about \$19,000 of annual income from dues, meeting registration fees, royalties on the journal, and gifts, plus about \$10,000 growth in its invested reserves or endowment. It spent about \$19,000 on journal subscriptions, the annual meeting, and minor operating costs, about the same as its active income. The growth of the invested funds added about 8% annually to the endowment of about \$160,000. The subsequent two years were atypical, with reduced operating income and increased costs, but an outpouring of gifts and very strong growth in the invested reserves more than made up the difference.

For more information, including programs and abstracts from past meetings, streaming video of selected presentations, details about the Annual Travel Grant competition, submitting manuscripts to the journal, and so on, please see the Institute of Andean Studies website at <https://www.instituteofandeanstudies.org/>

For minutes of business meetings, financial reports, and the like, please contact the current Secretary, William "Bill" Sapp, at [ias-secretary \(at\) andeanstudies.org](mailto:ias-secretary@andeanstudies.org).

Some contact and business details:

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