

**Michael D. Hsu**  
**Richard W. Painter**

May 28, 2024

To the United States Department of Education, Civil Rights Division:

The following is an amendment to the complaint we submitted on December 9, 2023 concerning antisemitism at the University of Minnesota.

Cultural Critique is a journal published by the University of Minnesota Press:

<https://www.upress.umn.edu/journal-division/journals/cultural-critique>

Cultural Critique is housed within the University's College of Liberal Arts (CLA), as shown on this website:

<https://cla.umn.edu/cscl/research/cultural-critique>

Earlier this month, Cultural Critique explicitly told authors that it will not accept submissions from authors affiliated with universities in Israel. Through this action CLA and the University of Minnesota Press, are in continuing violation of Title VI.

Attached are:

1) An email sent from the email address of the journal Cultural Critique <[cultcrit@umn.edu](mailto:cultcrit@umn.edu)> dated within the past week to an author who submitted a manuscript telling that author:

"We regret to inform you that we cannot consider your submission for publication due to the journal's commitment to BDS guidelines, which include "withdrawing support from Israel's...cultural and academic institutions." (See <https://bdsmovement.net/what-is-bds>). We thank you for submitting your work to *Cultural Critique*, and we hope for better times.

Sincerely,

[five names, several of whom are professors at the University of Minnesota]

*Editors"*

2) A follow up email from two assistant editors of Cultural Critique to the same author stating:

“Your submission was not considered solely on the basis of your current work at and affiliation with Israeli academic institutions.”

“Could you please verify the institutions where you work and with which you are affiliated at present? Should the information we found online be incorrect and should you in fact not be currently employed at any Israeli academic institution, we would be glad, of course, to consider your submission. Thank you.”

This email was sent from the same email account <[cultcrit@umn.edu](mailto:cultcrit@umn.edu)> with the following signature line:

*"Cultural Critique*

235 Nicholson Hall

[216 Pillsbury Drive SE](#)

[Minneapolis, MN 55455](#)

Tel 612.626.8940

Fax 612.625.4170

[Facebook](#) || [Twitter](#) || [Cultural Critique Online on Manifold](#)"

Authors who submit papers to Cultural Critique and similar journals include professors and graduate students from around the world. Overt discrimination against authors affiliated with Israeli universities sends a clear message that Jews who support Israel (even the existence of Israel) are not welcome in a particular discipline. In the case of Cultural Critique that message is coming from CLA, where the journal is hosted, and from the University of Minnesota Press where it is published.

These actions of the editors of Cultural Critique are part of a broader problem. The deans of CLA simply refuse to do anything about discriminatory conduct and abuse of official position by individual faculty. Our earlier complaint focused principally on collective faculty statements condemning Israel and excusing the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, posted on the official websites of three CLA departments. Members of our community repeatedly have expressed concerns about pervasive antisemitism in CLA, but nothing has been done.

We urge the Department of Education Civil Rights Division to continue its investigation, find the University of Minnesota to be in violation of Title VI, and issue specific guidelines that the University needs to follow to be in compliance.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Hsu  
Richard W. Painter