

British Liberal Political Studies Specialist Group Constitution

1 Name

The group shall be called British Liberal Political Studies Group

Objectives

The objectives of the group are:

- 1) To foster interdisciplinary and critical research that connects British Liberal Political Studies with political science and political history. We conceive of both Liberal 'history' and 'politics' in terms of its connection with the Liberal/SDP/Alliance and Liberal Democrat parties, and are keen to facilitate intellectual work that examines all aspects of the current state of and development of these parties.
 - 2) To facilitate contact between scholars, researchers, practitioners, artists, curators, journalists, and others engaged in exploring the broad connections between British Liberal Political Studies within an intellectual and critical framework
 - 3) To organize workshops, conferences, conference panels and such other events as may facilitate the achievement of objectives 1 and 2
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Membership

Membership shall be open to all members of the UK Political Studies Association, the British International Studies Association, Liberal History Group and any other interested party who is engaged in exploring the broad connections within British Liberal Political Studies and who will enable the group to meet its stated objectives.

Officers

The group and its activities will normally be managed by a single convenor who will organise, arrange and administer all group business (e.g. workshop organization, budgets, e-mail distribution). The convenor of the group shall be a member of the group at the time of selection, and also be a member of the PSA and the Liberal History Group. There will also be the appointment of two deputy convenors will assist with the overall development of the group.

Records

Shall be kept by the convenor and made available for inspection by any member of the group and the executive members of the PSA if so required. These records will include minutes of any meetings, the Annual Report, and all financial documentation. Current membership lists shall be maintained by the convenor.

Government

The group shall be governed and managed primarily by the convenor, with expertise, networks and administrative help sought from the members as and when required (e.g. when organizing a dedicated group workshop). All business, including calls for papers, conference panel organization, distribution of relevant documents and general communication will be undertaken primarily by e-mail.

Vacation of Office

The convenor shall vacate his/her office upon resignation or upon dismissal by resolution of a general meeting of the group.

Vacancies

A new convenor will be selected from a volunteer within the group. An election will be held if more than one volunteer steps forward. The new convenor must be a member of the group at the time of selection, and also be a member of the PSA and of the Liberal History Group.

Group Meetings

As the general business of the group is facilitated through e-mail, any group meeting will be arranged in this fashion, and will be organized by the convenor as and when necessary. The meeting must have at least three permanent members present, including the convenor, and will be held at a special one-day workshop or conference in which a number of group members are likely to be present (e.g. the PSA, EPOP). There will be a group biannual conference.

Finance

The convenor, in consultation with group members, will decide how current and expected income is to be spent during each financial year. Applications by the group to the PSA, BISA and other funders for grants of money shall be made by the convenor in consultation with group members. The funds are managed through the convenor's university. A financial report shall be presented to both the PSA and BISA executives each year along with the Annual Report, and is available to any member upon request.

Priorities for financial expenditure of the group are: (a) offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that postgraduate student members can participate in workshops, conferences and events organized by the group; (b) offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that regular group members can participate in workshops, conferences and events organized by the group; (c) providing all organizational costs (e.g. venue, refreshments) for one-off dedicated group workshops; (d) providing additional travel and accommodation costs for speakers at one-off dedicated group workshops; and (e) contributing funds to smaller workshops and conferences with direct relevance to the objectives of the group – especially if the funds can be directed to increase the attendance and participation of postgraduate students in the first instance, and group members where funds allow.

On vacating office the convenor of the group shall hand over the books of account to his/her successor.

PSA Constitutions

The group shall be governed by the appropriate clauses of the Union Constitution (the PSA) with regard to any matter not covered by this Constitution.

Amendment of the Constitution

This constitution may be amended or altered by consensus, or by a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the PSA's Constitution.

This constitution shall be made available to all members of the group on request.