

Comparative European Politics Specialist Group Constitution

1 Name

The group shall be called Comparative European Politics

Objectives

The objectives of the group are:

- 1) To foster interdisciplinary and critical research on topics related to Western and Eastern European politics,
 - 2) To enhance interest in the comparative aspects of European politics going beyond any compartmentalised regional interest of scholars,
 - 3) To promote case as well as conceptual research among the scholars of European politics,
 - 4) To generate new methodologies of comparative research utilising and building on the pre-existing expertise of its members,
 - 5) To facilitate contact between both senior and junior scholars, researchers, practitioners, and graduate students engaged in the study of European politics with cross-national, case-specific interests or methodological interests,
 - 6) To organize workshops, conferences, conference panels and such other events as may facilitate the achievement of objectives listed above,
 - 7) To co-operate with other Specialist Groups at PSA, or any interested party, in order to share expertise and promote cross-disciplinary research.
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Membership

Membership shall be open to all members of the UK Political Studies Association, the Irish Political Studies Association, British International Studies Association, other relevant political studies or international studies associations from various European countries, and any other interested party who is a scholar of European politics and who agrees with the objectives of the group stated above. The members will be required to promote the group in different networks and organise workshops or present papers at PSA meetings.

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. If the group members wish, a co-convenor can also be involved in the management of the Specialist 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 also 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 organisation, 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.

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, BISA).

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 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 Constitution

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.