

# **Constitution of the PSA's Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group**

## **1 Name**

The group shall be called the Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group of the UK Political Studies Association.

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## **Objects**

The objects of the group are:

1. to promote the study of the theory and practice of participatory and deliberative democracy
  2. to facilitate contact between scholars and professionals engaged in the study of participatory and deliberative democracy in theory and practice
  3. to achieve these objectives by: sponsoring appropriate publications; organising group conferences, panels at general conferences and other events; and awarding prizes as may facilitate the achievement of objectives 1 and 2
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## **Membership**

Membership shall be open to persons with an interest in the Objects of Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group (PDD). There shall not be an annual membership fee for members of the PSA, but there will be an annual membership fee for non-PSA members, to be determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group. This has been set at £1.

## **Officers and Committee**

The officers and committee of the group shall be members of the Group at the time of election. The Officers shall be a Convenor and Treasurer. The officers shall serve for annual terms and shall be elected by separate vote from among the members of the Group. The Convenor and Treasurer of the group shall be current PSA and Group members.

## **Records**

Shall be kept by the Convenor and Treasurer and made available for inspection by any member of the Group if so required. These records will include minutes of any meetings, the Annual Report and membership lists, including details of membership fees paid.

## **Governance**

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**

Any officer shall vacate office upon resignation or upon dismissal by resolution of a general meeting of the Group. An election will be held annually if the posts of the group are contested.

### **Casual Vacancies**

Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by election from among the members of the Group under such rules of procedure as the committee shall direct. All those elected to such casual vacancies shall be current PDD members.

### **Group Meetings**

This meeting shall be held during the PSA annual conference each year or at a special one-day conference convened at the decision of the Convenor, in which a number of group members are likely to be present. 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.

### **Finance**

Applications by the group to the PSA for grants of money shall be made at the discretion of the Convenor and Treasurer, in consultation with group members.

### **PSA Constitution**

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

### **Amendment of the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended or altered by consensus or altered only by a resolution supported by 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.**