

Modern Liberty PSA Specialist Group

CONSTITUTION

1. Mission Statement and Aims

1.1 The Modern Liberty PSA Specialist Group is an international, non-profitmaking network of leading experts on modern liberty within the fields of political theory, philosophy, economics, law, sociology, history and others. Its mission is to support research on the nature of liberty, to organise scholarly events such as panels at the PSA annual conference, Specialist Group own conferences and events that aim to generate publicity and impact beyond academia.

1.2 The primary aims of the Modern Liberty PSA Specialist Group are:

1.2.a to advance debates of the nature of liberty and its political implications in modern pluralist societies. The specialist group aims to address the challenges to liberal political theory posed by existing and newly emerging social movements like feminism, multiculturalism and political Islam, among others, by studying their impact on the understanding of liberty;

1.2.b to bring together experts on modern liberty from the different subfields of the discipline of politics;

1.2.c to stimulate interdisciplinary study of the nature of liberty by engaging with new developments in sociology, economics and law, among others;

1.2.d to stimulate international collaborations in the study of liberty by bringing together European and US scholars from different subfields of liberal political theory;

1.2.e to generate impact beyond academia by rethinking our understanding of liberty in the current political climate where traditional thinking about the trade-offs between civil liberty and security is being challenged by new terrorist threats from global networks inspired by extreme religious beliefs, such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State, in the context of an increasingly multi-cultural society.

2. Membership

2.1 Membership of the Modern Liberty PSA Specialist Group is open to all PSA members, as well as to the broader international scholarly community of academics, researchers, students and practitioners.

2.2 There are two types of membership: full and affiliate.

2.2.a Full Members pay an annual membership fee to be determined and reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee. Full members are entitled to all benefits and are eligible for all offices of the Group. There shall be a discount for members of the PSA.

2.2.b Affiliate Membership is free. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights or decision-making powers. Also, they shall not be eligible for funding or other benefits as determined by the Executive Committee.

2.3 A List of Members shall be kept by the Convenors including contact details, affiliation, date of membership commencement, renewal and review as well as areas of research interest.

3. Organisational Structure and Governance

3.1 The principal decision making bodies of the specialist group are the Group of Convenors, the Executive Committee of the PSA, and the General Meetings of the Full Members.

3.2 Governance:

3.2.a All members of the Executive Committee of the Group shall be Full Members of the Modern Liberty PSA Specialist Group at the time of the election or reshuffle. The Convenors of the specialist group shall have been a Full Member for at least one year prior to election or appointment.

3.2.b The Executive Committee shall consist of the Convenors of the group and the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

3.2.c An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of all members shall be held once per annum at the annual PSA conference. Notice of at least 10 working days shall be given. The Convenors and Executive Committee shall present a review of the Group's activities.

3.2.d Any Full Member of the Group can propose motions for the AGM. Any motions to be discussed and voted on shall be submitted in writing to the Convenors at least one week before the AGM.

3.2.e The Executive Committee shall draft an annual Action Plan outlining the Group's priorities and planned activities for the coming year, which should be approved by the AGM. The Action Plan should be made available to all members.

3.2.f If an important decision needs to be taken in the period between two consecutive AGMs, a Virtual General Meeting (VGM) can be held, including an election or vote by email or other electronic means. Two weeks' notice shall be given to Full Members for a VGM. The process shall be overseen collectively by the Executive Committee. In order for a VGM decision or vote to stand, at least 1/5 of all Full Members should take part, unless tacit approval is explicitly sought. A General Meeting can also be called at the written request of no less than ten Full Members.

4. Funding, Budget and Annual report

4.1 The Group shall produce an Annual Report, which shall be submitted to the PSA Executive Committee and presented at the specialist group AGM. The Annual Report should list the Group's aims, recent activities, review of finances (income/expenses) for the previous year, budget for the coming year, membership, group governance and Action Plan as detailed above (3.2.e).

4.2 Applications by the Group to the PSA or other prospective sponsors for grants of money shall be made at the discretion of the Convenors or the Treasurer and Membership secretary.

4.3 The members of the Executive Committee are responsible for the allocation of funds. Invoices and receipts shall be collected for expenses where possible. Signed declarations may be accepted when awarding prizes, grants or incurring other expenses for which it is not possible to produce a receipt.

5. Constitution

- 5.1 This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by a simple majority of Full Members voting at a general meeting (Annual or Virtual), provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the PSA's Constitution.
- 5.2 The group shall be governed by the appropriate clauses of the PSA's Constitution with regard to any matter not covered by this Constitution.
- 5.3 This Constitution shall be made available to current and prospective Members online and on request.

Convenors:

Maria Dimova-Cookson

Avital Simhony

Treasurer and Membership Secretary:

Thomas O'Neil