

# **Autocracies and Regime Change Group Constitution**

## **1 Name**

The group shall be called the Autocracies and Regime Change Group and abbreviated as ARC.

## **2 Objects**

The objects of the group are:

- 1) to further academic exchange and the formation and deepening of professional networks among scholars studying autocracies and states in transition;
- 2) to promote academic research on autocracies and states in transition to the media, governments, NGOs and the general public;
- 3) to create an inclusive, accessible and supportive professional community for scholars of autocracies and states in transition of all backgrounds;
- 4) to provide support and professional-development opportunities for early-career scholars who study autocracies and regime change

## **3 Membership**

Membership shall be open to persons with an interest in the Objects of the Autocracies and Regime Change Group.

There shall be an annual membership fee to be determined by the Annual General Meeting of the ARC Group. Members will be informed of the benefits of also joining the PSA, and the ARC Group may on occasion offer special discounts or benefits to PSA members.

## **4 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 Chair, a Treasurer and a Communications Officer. Other committee members will include any other persons the Group deems necessary. The officers and committee members shall serve for terms of three years and shall be elected by separate vote from among the members of the Group at the Annual General Meeting of the Group. The officers and any committee members of ARC shall be current PSA members. Officers and committee members shall be eligible for re-election

provided that they are still a bona fide member of the Group and a current PSA member. Officers and committee members may take over additional named responsibilities as needed.

The current committee members are:

Chair: Janina Beiser-McGrath

Treasurer: Felix Wiebrecht

Communications officer: Fabio Angiolillo

## **5 Records**

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

## **6 Governance**

The Group shall be managed by a committee as defined above in Section 4. The committee will consult appropriately with the membership and will report to the membership at an Annual General Meeting.

The committee, in consultation with the membership, shall make appointment to other ARC positions as necessary.

## **7 Vacation of Office**

Any officer shall vacate office upon resignation or upon dismissal by resolution of a general meeting of the Group.

## **8 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 ARC members.

## **9 Annual General Meeting**

This meeting shall be held during the PSA annual conference each year or at a special conference convened at the decision of the committee. Not less than fourteen clear days notice of the AGM shall be given. A quorum shall be ten per cent of the membership.

## **10 General Meetings**

These shall be called at the discretion of the committee or at the written request of not less than ten members of the group. Notice of not less than three clear days, excluding weekends and bank holidays shall be given.

## **11 Finance**

Applications by the group to the PSA for grants of money shall be made at the discretion of the committee by the Chair of the group. A Treasurer's report and a Chair's report shall be presented to each Annual General Meeting which will decide how current and expected income is to be spent during the period prior to the following Annual General Meeting. The committee shall make financial decisions between AGMs.

On vacating office the Treasurer of the group shall hand over the books of account to the duly elected successor.

## **12 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.

## **13 Amendment of the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended or altered only 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.**