

Caribbean Politics Specialist Group Constitution

1 Name

The group shall be called Caribbean Politics Specialist Group

Objectives

The objectives of the group are:

- 1) To provide an important focus for academics teaching and researching the politics, political economy and international relations of the Caribbean.
 - 2) To concentrate on developing research links among political scientists working in the Caribbean, Europe and North America.
 - 3) To strengthen relations between the academic community and businesses, consultancies and policy organizations with the aim of raising the profile of the Caribbean within the UK
 - 4) To organize workshops, conferences, conference panels and such other events as may facilitate the achievement of objectives 1, 2 and 3
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1 Membership

Membership shall be open to all members of the UK Political Studies Association and any other interested party who is engaged in exploring Caribbean politics, including Caribbean political economy, political and intellectual Caribbean history, international relations and foreign policy of Caribbean states, and Caribbean policy development

2 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. In addition, there will be a treasurer who oversees the accounts of the Group.

3 Records

Shall be kept by the convenor and made available for inspection by any member of the group and the executive members of 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.

4 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.

5 Vacation of Office

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

6 Vacancies

A new convenor will be selected from volunteers 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. A simple majority shall suffice to elect the convenor.

7 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.

8 Finance

The convenor and treasurer, 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 and other funders for grants of money shall be made by the convenor and treasurer in consultation with group members. The funds are managed by the convenor and treasurer through a Caribbean Politics Specialist Group bank account. A financial report shall be presented to 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) organizing one-off events which bring together academics and policy-makers to discuss contemporary issues of relevance to the Caribbean, b) providing all organizational costs (e.g. venue, refreshments) for one-off dedicated group workshops; (c) providing additional travel and accommodation costs for speakers at one-off dedicated group workshops; and d) offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that members (especially postgraduate students) can participate in workshops, conferences and events organized by the group.

9 PSA

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.

10 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.