

# Political Science Association Latin American Politics - Specialist Group

## CONSTITUTION

### 1 Name

The group shall be called the *Latin American Politics (LatAm) Specialist Group* of the Political Studies Association (PSA).

### 2 Purpose of the Specialist Group

The *Latin American Politics - Specialist Group* aims to bring together a network of political scientists working on issues relevant to Latin America in the areas of comparative politics, political economy, and/or international relations. It also seeks to strengthen the network of UK-based scholars whose research focuses on all aspects of Latin American political development. The *Latin American Politics - Specialist Group* welcomes scholars, early career researchers, and PhD students from a wide range of fields within political science fostering new knowledge, dialogue and research collaboration amongst scholars and institutions.

The *Latin American Politics - Specialist Group* organizes panels at the PSA Annual Conference and other activities such as graduate students summer schools and workshops that reflect our research interests. It also supports the emergence of younger scholars by an annual prize for the best paper by a young UK-based scholar on Latin American Politics.

The *Latin American Politics - Specialist Group* also facilitates any potential partnership with similar groups already working under the umbrella of other associations like the American Political Science Association (APSA), the International Political Science Associations (IPSA), or the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

### 3 Objectives of the Group

- To promote and advance the study of Latin American politics in the United Kingdom.
- To foster and encourage multi-method research on topics related to Latin American politics.
- To boost the existent network of UK-based political scientists whose scholarship focuses on all the aspects of Latin American political development.
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and the discussion of new projects between UK-based scholars, researchers, practitioners, and graduate students interested in researching Latin American politics.
- To organize conferences and events to promote collaboration among the increasing number of UK-based scholars doing research on Latin American politics.

## 4 Membership

Membership to the *Latin American Politics - Specialist Group* shall be open to all academics interested in Latin American Politics, including PhD students and practitioners. Membership will not be limited to the UK. There will be no membership fee. However, non-PSA members will pay a differentiated, higher, fee to events organised by the group. Reduced rates will be applicable to graduate students.

## 5 Officers

The officers of the group will be comprise at minimum a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. Other committee members could include a Treasurer, Membership Secretary and such other persons as the Group deems necessary. They shall hold office for three years and, once the founding term has expired, shall be elected by separate vote from among the members of the group at the group's Annual General Meeting (or equivalent). They must be current PSA members. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be eligible for re-election.

## 6 Annual General Meeting and General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting will normally be held during the PSA Annual Conference or at a special event convened at the decision of the Chairs. Notice of no less than fourteen working days shall be given. Attendance is only open to members of the group.

General Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Chairs or at the written request of not less than five members of the group. Notice of not less than five working days shall be given. Attendance is only open to members of the group.

## 7 Records

Records shall be kept by the Chairs 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 Annual General Meeting, and the Annual Report. Current membership lists shall be maintained. The Annual and Financial Reports shall be made publicly available on the group's website, together with a list of members.

## 8 Vacation of Office

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

## 9 Casual Vacancies

Vacancies shall be filled by election from among the members of the group under such rules of procedure as the Chairs shall direct. All those elected to such casual vacancies shall be current PSA members.

## 10 Finance

Applications by the group for grants of money shall be made by the chairs in consultation with group members. The funds will be managed through a dedicated account held by the University of one of the Chairs. A financial report shall be presented to the PSA and to all group members each year along with the Annual Report, and will be posted on the group's website.

Priorities for the group's financial expenditure are:

- Offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that postgraduate students may participate in events organised by the group;
- Meeting the organisational costs required to support group events;
- Meeting the travel and accommodation costs of high profile speakers invited to participate in events organised by the group;
- Meeting the costs of running prizes for best paper and/or best student dissertation on Latin American Politics.

On vacating office, the group's officer(s) shall hand over the books of account to their successor(s).

## 11 Amendments to the Constitution

This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting at an annual general meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene the any part of the PSA's Constitution.

*This constitution will be made public through the group's website.*