

Politics of South Asia Specialist Group Constitution

1 Name

The group shall be called the UK Political Studies Association Politics of South Asia Specialist Group.

2 Objectives

The objectives of the group are:

- 1) to promote the study of politics in and of South Asia, widely defined, including but not limited to the study of South Asian governments, politics, foreign relations and recent political history, and politics related to the South Asian diaspora. South Asia is defined here as including the sovereign territories of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
 - 2) to facilitate contact between scholars engaged in the study of South Asian politics;
 - 3) to organize conferences and such other events as may facilitate the achievement of objectives 1 and 2.
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3 Membership

Membership shall be open to all members of the UK Political Studies Association. Officers shall verify PSA membership when registering new society members. Membership of non-PSA members shall be no higher than 50% of the total membership, whichever is the higher.

The group will not charge a membership fee to members. However, where the group financially sponsors an event AND the organisers of that event charge a fee for participation in the event, non-members of the group attending and participating in the event will be charged a small nominal fee in addition to the registration fee for that event. This is in accordance with the policy of the Political Studies Association.

4 Officers

The officers of the group shall be members of the group at the time of election, and shall consist of Chair and Treasurer and such other officers as the group deems necessary. They shall hold office for three years and shall be elected by separate vote from among the members of the group at the Annual General Meeting of the group. All officers of the society shall be current PSA members. An officer shall be eligible for re-election provided that they are still a bona fide member of the group and a current PSA member.

5 Records

Shall be kept by the Chair 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, including membership of the Politics of South Asia mailing list.

6 Government

The group shall be governed by a committee consisting of the officers of the group as defined above and not less than two members of the group who shall be elected every three years under such rules of procedure as the AGM shall direct. The committee

shall have powers to co-opt not more than two members. The committee shall hold office for three years.

7 Vacation of Office

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

8 Casual Vacancies

Whether of officers or of members of the committee, vacancies 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 PSA members.

9 Annual General Meeting

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 committee. At least one officer of the group shall be present at the meeting. Not less than fourteen clear days notice of the AGM shall be given. Notification of the AGM shall be sent by e-mail.

10 Finance

Applications by the group to the PSA for grants of money shall be made at the discretion of the committee jointly by the Chair and Treasurer of the group. A Treasurer'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 may decide to make available sums of money to facilitate the presence of speakers at the PSA annual conference. In that case, a decision on the amount to be made available will be decided by the committee no later than two months prior to the conference and bids for funding will be invited from the group's membership. Once all bids have been received, the committee will decide how to allocate the money. Only group members are eligible to bid for this money, though the latter may be used to facilitate the presence of individuals who are not members of the group.

On vacating office the treasurer of the group shall hand over the books of account to his or her duly elected successor.

11 PSA Constitution

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

12 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 the AGM, or where deemed necessary by the group's committee, at an Extraordinary 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.