

CONSTITUTION FOR PSA SPECIALIST GROUP IN RHETORIC AND POLITICS NOVEMBER 2010

Chair: Dr James Martin, Goldsmiths, University of London

Treasurer: Dr Alan Finlayson, University of Swansea

1 Name

The group shall be called the Rhetoric and Politics Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association

Objectives

The objectives of the group are:

- 1) To foster critical research and encourage debates around rhetoric, speech and communication in politics, drawing upon the range of disciplinary approaches in the Social Sciences and Humanities
- 2) To facilitate contact between scholars, researchers, practitioners, journalists, and others engaged in reading, writing, analyzing, interpreting and debating rhetoric in public life
- 3) To organize workshops, conferences, conference panels and such other events as may facilitate the achievement of objectives 1 and 2

Membership

Membership shall be open to all members of the UK Political Studies Association, and any other interested party who is engaged in exploring the broad connections between rhetoric and politics and who will enable the group to meet its stated objectives.

Officers

The group and its activities will normally be managed by one or more convenors who will organise, arrange and administer all group business (e.g. workshop organization, budgets, e-mail distribution). The convenor(s) of the group shall be members of the group at the time of selection, and also be a member of the PSA.

Records

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

Government

The group shall be governed and managed primarily by the convenor(s), 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.

Vacation of Office

The convenor(s) shall vacate his/her office upon resignation or upon dismissal by resolution of a general meeting of the group carried by two-thirds of those present. In order to pass such a resolution, not less than 15 members of the group must be in attendance.

Vacancies

A new convenor will be selected from a volunteer 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, and also be a member of the PSA.

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(s) as and when necessary.

Finance

The convenor(s), 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(s) in consultation with group members. The funds are managed through the convenor's university. A financial report shall be presented to the PSA executive each year along with the Annual Report, and is available to any member upon request.

Priorities for financial expenditure of the group are: (a) offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that postgraduate student members can participate in workshops, conferences and events organized by the group; (b) offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that regular group members can participate in workshops, conferences and events organized by the group; (c) providing all organizational costs (e.g. venue, refreshments) for one-off dedicated group workshops; (d) providing additional travel and accommodation costs for speakers at one-off dedicated group workshops; and (e) contributing funds to smaller workshops and conferences with direct relevance to the objectives of the group – especially if the funds can be directed to increase the attendance and participation of postgraduate students in the first instance, and group members where funds allow.

On vacating office the convenor(s) of the group shall hand over the books of account to his/her successor.

PSA Constitution

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

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.