

CONSTITUTION OF THE APSA POLITICAL THEORY RESEARCH GROUP

1. NAME

1.1 The Australian Political Studies Association Political Theory Research Group

2. PURPOSE

2.1 This research group has been formed to support and promote political theory in Australia.

2.2 It does so principally by organising academic events at which political theorists can present their work and collaborate on research. It will also seek to publicise the work being produced by Australian political theorists. Although the group principally aims to support political theorists who are based in Australia, it is international in its orientation and will also seek to build engagement between Australian political theorists and political theorists based internationally.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership of the Political Theory Research Group is open to all members of the Australian Political Studies Association, who can join the group via the My APSA Account.

3.2 The official register of members will be held in the My APSA Account, and thus the APSA Office will have carriage of the list in the first instance. However, it will be regularly distributed to the convenors of the Research Group.

4. CONVENORS

4.1 There will be at least 3 convenors of the Research Group each year.

4.2 The role of the convenors is to lead the Group by helping organise its activities, manage its finances, and liaise with APSA.

4.3 Convenors of the Political Theory Research Group will serve 1-year terms. Convenors of the Political Theory Research Group must be APSA members and officially registered as members of the Political Theory Research Group through the My APSA website. Where possible, the composition of the convenor group should reflect principles of equity and diversity.

4.4 Convenors will be elected at the Research Group's Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, by majority vote of members present.

4.5 With the majority approval of all incumbent convenors of the Political Theory Research Group, a candidate who is not a current member of APSA or the Research Group may be given special dispensation to seek election as a convenor. However, if they are elected to this position, they must become an official member of APSA and the Research Group within three weeks of the meeting at which they are elected.

- 4.6 At least one convenor will be designated the Treasurer, having primary responsibility for the Group's finances.
- 4.7 At least one convenor will be designated the Secretary, having primary responsibility for managing relations (including communications) with APSA and the APSA executive. The roles of Treasurer and Secretary can (but need not) be combined.
- 4.8 The positions of Treasurer and Secretary will normally be determined by majority vote at the AGM. However, by majority vote, the AGM may also allow the elected convenors to determine the allocation of these portfolios among themselves, separately from the AGM. In this event, the convenors must notify the membership of who will perform these roles within a month of the AGM.
- 4.9 In the event there is a mid-term vacancy and the number of convenors drops below 3, a Special General Meeting of the membership will be held to fill this casual vacancy. In the event there is a casual vacancy in the role of Secretary or Treasurer, the remaining convenors will appoint a replacement from among their number or convene a special meeting of the membership to elect a replacement.
- 4.10 Convenors of the Research Group will usually meet at 4 times a year, apart from the AGM. If the Convenors cannot reach agreement on a matter, they will decide how to proceed through a majority vote.
- 4.11 The Convenors have ultimate responsibility for determining how the Group's funds are expended. For larger items of expenditure, they should notify the membership in advance of their plans in order to seek feedback.

5. MEETINGS

- 5.1 The Research Group's Annual General Meeting (AGM) may be held in person at the APSA conference or virtually at another time. The timing of the Annual General Meeting will be determined by the Convenors, but it must be held no more than 13 months from the last AGM.
- 5.2 Officially registered members of the Research Group will be notified of the timing of the AGM at least 2 weeks before the meeting.
- 5.3 At the AGM, the convenors will report on the activities of the group over the previous 12 months and the state of its finances. It will also elect the convenors for the upcoming year.
- 5.4 At the discretion of the convenors, further business may be conducted at the AGM, including discussion of the Research Group's activities for the coming year.
- 5.5 Decisions of the AGM shall be by a majority vote of the members present.

5.6 Outside of the AGM, a Special General Meeting of the Research Group membership may be called by the convenors. In this event, the same notice period and rules of procedure apply as for the AGM.

6. GENERAL MATTERS

6.1 This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of members present at the Research Group's AGM or at a Special General Meeting.

6.2 Amendments to the Constitution should normally be circulated a week prior to the meeting.

6.3 The dissolution of the Research Group requires a majority vote of members present at the AGM or a Special General Meeting; or a decision by the APSA executive.

6.4 In the event of the Group's dissolution, any remaining assets will go to APSA once outstanding debts have been paid.