

**4th Annual Report**  
**of the**  
**Greek Politics Specialist Group**  
**February 2008**

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## 1. Background:

The *Greek Politics Specialist Group* (GPSG) was established by the approval of the Political Studies Association (PSA) Executive Committee at its July 2004 meeting. The original application form was submitted by Roman Gerodimos (Bournemouth) and Maria Zisouli (AUEB), Convenors-Designate; it was backed by 64 prominent academics and researchers of Greek politics in the United Kingdom and Greece.

GPSG's aims are:

- To promote the understanding of Greek government and politics via the encouragement of systematic research and teaching.
- To strengthen the ties between the UK and Greek academic communities and facilitate the exchange of research and expertise between the two countries.
- To support comparative and interdisciplinary political analysis, by collaborating with other PSA Specialist Groups and academic research centres, and by highlighting an expanding body of work on public administration, international affairs, psephology, political communication, political marketing, political theory etc.
- To provide UK-based scholars of (and from) Greece with a much-needed forum for the free exchange of ideas and to facilitate networking within the academic community.

**Current Membership:** 135 (as of January 2008) [the list of members is available upon request]

## **2. Overview of Activities 2004 – 2008:**

### 1. PSA Annual Conference panels

2 GPSG panels at the forthcoming annual PSA conference at Swansea plus 3 other panels in collaboration with the Italian Politics Specialist Group

Previously:

- 4 panels at Leeds (2005)
- 4 panels at Reading (2006)
- 4 panels at Bath (2007)

Main topics covered: political communication and marketing; elections, civic participation and voter turnout; political parties and competition; foreign policy, international relations and Europeanization; public administration and public policy making; art and politics

### 2. IPSA World Congress panel

- panel on Greek democracy at the 20<sup>th</sup> IPSA Congress in Fukuoka (2006) sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### 3. LSE PhD Symposium

- sponsored doctoral students from Greece presenting at the 2<sup>nd</sup> LSE PhD Symposium (2005)

### 4. Financial support for doctoral students and Greek scholars

- almost 90% of GPSG funds (c. £2,600 + €9,500) have gone into supporting doctoral students and scholars from Greece travelling to international conferences and research events (PSA, IPSA, LSE)
- the terms and conditions of the grants have ensured that funding is distributed to as many scholars as possible, with particular emphasis given to self-funded doctoral students and scholars from regional Greek universities, as well as practitioners (e.g. government advisers) who do not receive funding from other sources.

### 5. Thematic Networks, Newsletter, Website

- regular Newsletter and Newsflashes with news, events, features, articles and profiling of key research institutes and organisations
- six Thematic Networks providing specialist bibliographies and Newsletter articles
- PSA specialist group webpage

### **3. 2008 Action Plan – to be implemented throughout the year**

As agreed at the GPSG meetings of 14 September 2007 (Athens) and 4 January 2008 (Athens).

- 1. Revise and update the list of members**
- 2. Consider the introduction of a £2/€3 membership fee payable via PayPal**
- 3. Upload a membership form on the website so that prospective members can apply online**
- 4. Create a page/profile on a networking website (Facebook) so as to promote the work of the Group**
- 5. Prepare and submit the 2007 Annual Report and 2008 Budget**
- 6. Enhance the content, design and promotion of the Newsletter**
- 7. Set Group policy on the composition, number and structure of the annual conference panels [proposals to be discussed at the April AGM]**
- 8. Consider re-launching the Essay Competition with a prize of £200**
- 9. Organise a symposium or research event on a topical issue [to take place in the spring or summer 2008 in Athens]**
- 10. Consider the launching of a stand-alone GPSG website**
- 11. Draw up a plan for the reinvigoration of the Thematic Networks**

Progress on the points of this Action Plan will be discussed at the April AGM (Swansea) and at the summer meeting of the executive committee (Athens).

#### 4. GPSG 2007 Accounts

2007	INCOME	EXPENSES	
	<i>Carried forward from 2006:</i>		
	<b>£245</b> + <b>€2,000</b> (Greek MFA)	Grants to scholars from Greece presenting papers at GPSG panels in the annual PSA conference €300/£200 x 10 (tbc)	<b>€2,000</b> + <b>£880</b>
	<b>£750</b> (PSA SG Funding)		
		Donation to Special Government Fund for the schools affected by the 2007 fires	<b>£110</b>
<b>TOTAL</b> [2007 only]	<b>£995</b> <b>€2,000</b>		<b>£990</b> <b>€2,000</b>
		<i>Carried forward to 2008</i>	<b>£5</b>

**Convenors:**

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**Secretary and Newsletter Editor:**

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**PSA Conference Convenors:**

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**Membership Officer:**

Tassos Chardas	<a href="mailto:a.chardas@sussex.ac.uk">a.chardas@sussex.ac.uk</a>
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**The Six Thematic Networks**

A: Greece and the Challenge of a 25-Member EU	<i>A. Vallianatou, T. Chardas, M. J. Romanos</i>
B: Political Communication and Civil Society	<i>Dr. P. Yannas</i>
C: Political Parties and the Political System	<i>N. Bilios</i>
D: Political Economy	<i>Dr. D. Tsarouhas</i>
E: Greek Foreign and Defence Policy	<i>A. Liaropoulos, M. Petrelli</i>
F: The Social State and the Greek Citizen	<i>A. Liarigovinou, Dr. S. Ladi</i>