

5th Annual Report
of the
Greek Politics Specialist Group
January 2009

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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: 195 (as of January 2009)

of which

- 30 have subscribed through our newly-introduced membership scheme as Full Members and have paid their fee in full (£5 p.a.)
- 15 have subscribed as Affiliate Members (free – no voting rights)
- 150 have yet to register online / choose a membership type or have not yet paid their membership fee

Most of the income from the newly-established membership scheme will appear in next year's Annual Report.

TABLE 1: 2008 ACCOUNTS

2008	INCOME	EXPENSES		RECEIPTS
	<i>Carried forward from 2007: £5.00</i>	Travel grants to GPSG delegates at the 23/01/2009 joint specialist group conference (Durham)	£500.00	1-4
	£610.00 <i>(PSA Funding)</i>	Domain name registration and hosting services (Streamline.net) www.gpsg.org.uk	£32.87	5
	£0.25 <i>(Paypal Verification)</i>	Vistaprint stationery and promotional material	£77.13	6
	£20 <i>(membership fees)</i>	Advertising (Google Ads)	£10	7
TOTAL	£635.25	TOTAL	£620	
		<i>Carried forward to 2009</i>	£15.25	See attached bank statement

REVIEW OF 2008 ACTION PLAN

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

No	Action Description	Outcome / Follow-up
1	Revise and update the list of members	Completed
2	Consider the introduction of a membership fee payable via PayPal	Completed – see: http://www.gpsg.org.uk/join.php
3	Upload a membership form on the website so that prospective members can apply online	Completed – see: http://www.gpsg.org.uk/join.php
4	Create a profile on a networking website so as to promote the work of the Group	Rejected – see (10)
5	Prepare and submit the 2007 Annual Report and 2008 Budget	Completed - see: http://www.gpsg.org.uk/annualreports.html
6	Enhance the content, design and promotion of the Newsletter	Completed - see: http://www.gpsg.org.uk/newsletter.html
7	Set Group policy on the composition, number and structure of the annual conference panels [proposals to be discussed at the April 2008 AGM]	Partly completed – discussion carried forward to 2009 AGM
8	Consider re-launching the Essay Competition with a prize of £200	Carried forward to 2009
9	Organise a symposium or research event on a topical issue [to take place in Athens, Greece]	In progress – see: http://www.gpsg.org.uk/athens
10	Consider the launching of a stand-alone GPSG website	Completed – see: http://www.gpsg.org.uk
11	Draw up a plan for the reinvigoration of the Thematic Networks	Carried forward to 2009

Recent Activities:

- 5 panels (3 in collaboration with the Italian Politics SG) at the 2008 Annual Conference of the PSA, Swansea: <http://www.gpsg.org.uk/swansea2008.html>
- launch of the website, new membership scheme, online registration, online library (short articles, thematic bibliographies, full-text of conference papers, press cuttings)
- “The Changing Constellation of the Enlarging EU” – joint conference of the PSA’s Greek, German, French and Italian Politics Specialist Groups, Durham, 23 January 2009
http://www.gpsg.org.uk/docs/GPSG_Durham_Conference_Programme.pdf

Current Activities:

- International Conference, “Images of Nations: Strategic Communication, Soft Power and the Media”, 4th & 5th February 2009, Athens, Greece, under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.gpsg.org.uk/athens>

- **DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2009 [to be formally agreed at the 2009 AGM, Manchester – also depending on the funding allocation]**

No	Action Description
1	Award GPSG postgraduate grants for the 4 th PhD Symposium of the Hellenic Observatory, London School of Economics, June 2009
2	Launch essay/paper competition
3	Successfully complete the 4-5/02/2009 Athens International Conference on “Images of Nations: Strategic Communication, Soft Power and the Media”, organised under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Secure funding and convene GPSG panel at the Yale International Conference on Reform in Greece (May 2009)
5	Appoint Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Events/Sponsors Officer
6	Discuss and Amend GPSG Constitution [AGM]
7	Set Strategy on PSA panels and papers [AGM]
8	Establish ties with affiliate organisations and develop ties with existing collaborators
9	Introduce “Media Experts” service [Full Members only]
10	Consider the strategic role of the Thematic Networks