

# Constitution of SFPS

(approved at the AGM, Nov 2004)

## 1. Name of the Society

The Society shall be known as the Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies (short form SFPS).

## 2. Aims of the Society

- a) to further the aims of the area of study known as Francophone Postcolonial Studies;
- b) to facilitate research in the Francophone Postcolonial Studies field, thereby fostering international and interdisciplinary dialogue between scholars through the organisation of conferences and other appropriate events;
- c) to create to this end an international network of scholars working in the field of Francophone Postcolonial Studies, and to ensure communication through electronic resources and the dissemination of high quality research in refereed publications;
- c) to act, where appropriate, as a professional body able to communicate formally the views of members of the Society to other professional bodies, to relevant institutions and agencies of Government, and to other appropriate agencies and bodies;
- d) to nominate members, where appropriate, to represent the Society's interest on other national bodies;
- e) to act in a liaison capacity with representatives of the French cultural and diplomatic services in the UK and Ireland on matters relating to Francophone Postcolonial Studies.

## 3. Membership

- a) Membership of the Society is open to:
  - i) any members of staff in HE and FE institutions whose principal research and teaching interests are in the field of Francophone Postcolonial Studies;
  - ii) any postgraduate students whose principal research interests are in the field of Francophone Postcolonial Studies;
  - iii) any retired members of staff in HE and FE institutions and other *bona fide* researchers with research interests are in the field of Francophone Postcolonial Studies.

#### **4. Affiliation**

SFPS may accept affiliation by or to other associations as appropriate.

#### **5. Meetings**

There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society, which shall have authority to determine any matters concerning the activity of the Society. Special Meetings of the Society may be called by the President, either on his/her own authority or on receipt of a written request signed by at least twelve members of the Society.

#### **6. Subscription**

Membership is conditional on payment of the annual subscription, which falls due on 1 January. The amount of the subscription shall be decided by the membership at the AGM.

#### **7. Accounts**

An annual Statement of the accounts shall be presented to the AGM. The Accounts shall be subject to internal Audit by two members of the Society, elected annually by members at the AGM.

#### **8. Executive Committee**

- a) The Committee shall consist of the following Officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer.
- b) Any affiliated association may nominate one Representative Member to serve on the Committee.
- c) There shall be six or seven additional members, who will fulfil the following roles: Minutes Secretary; Membership Secretary; Conference Secretary; Publicity Officer(s); Publications Officer; Postgraduate Representative(s).
- d) The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt not more than four additional members, who shall have voting rights. These will, when appropriate, include the Conference Organising Committee Chair. The editors of the Society's journal not serving as Publications Officer will normally join the Committee as ex officio members.
- e) All Officers shall serve for two years in the first instance, renewable on re-election for a third year. The office of Vice-President shall normally be held by the Immediate Past President for a maximum period of three years. An election to this office shall be held in the event of the post falling vacant. An elected Vice-President shall serve for two years in the first instance, and may be re-elected for a third year.
- f) Ordinary Members shall serve for a period of three years and not normally be eligible for re-election until a period of one year has elapsed from the terminating date

of previous membership. Normally two members shall retire annually from the Committee.

g) Co-opted members shall serve for a period of up to one year (ending at the next AGM).

h) Elections for Officers and Ordinary Members shall be by paper ballot at the AGM. Nominations (to be supported by a proposer and seconder) shall be solicited by the Secretary four weeks in advance of the AGM, to be in the Secretary's hands one week before the start of the meeting.

i) The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the members of the Society for the management of its affairs and the implementation and furtherance of Society policies. It shall report as appropriate to members and annually to the AGM.

j) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the appointment of three Editors of the Society's journal, *Francophone Postcolonial Studies*, to whom responsibility for management of the journal is delegated.

k) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once yearly. Meetings shall be called by the President, on his/her own authority or on receipt of a written request signed by at least four Committee members.

k) The Executive Committee may at its discretion submit proposals and issues to a postal ballot of members. The results of such ballots will be determined by a simple majority of members voting.

## **9. Amendments to the Constitution**

a) Proposals to amend the Constitution shall be notified to members of the Society not less than four weeks before an AGM. Proposals may be presented by the Executive Committee or by a motion lodged with the Secretary at least two months prior to the date of the AGM and signed by at least twelve members of the Society.

b) A motion to amend the Constitution shall be approved if supported by at least two thirds of the votes cast at the AGM.

## **10. Dissolution of the Society**

Any proposal to dissolve the Society shall be notified to members of the Society not less than four weeks before an AGM. Proposals may be presented by the Executive Committee or by a motion lodged with the Secretary at least two months prior to the date of the AGM and signed by at least twenty members of the Society. A motion to dissolve the Society shall be approved if supported by at least two thirds of the votes cast at the AGM. In the event of members deciding to dissolve the Society, the AGM shall elect a Residual Executive of five members to oversee the conclusion of outstanding business and the return to members of any remaining assets.

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## **Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies**

### **Rules for the conduct of ballots**

Any paid-up member of the Society may stand for a vacancy on the Executive, provided his/her nomination is signed by a proposer and seconder who are also paid-up members. Nominees must also give their written consent to their nomination.

All paid-up members may vote in the ballot.

The President shall, in conjunction with the Membership Secretary, establish a list of those entitled to vote.

In counting the votes cast, the principle of simple majority shall apply, except if there are more than two nominations for any one vacancy. In this case the single transferable vote will be used, and voters will be asked to number the candidates in order of preference.