Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)of the Political Studies Association (PSA)



Greek Politics Specialist Group

Annual Report

Submitted to the PSA Executive Committee for its April 2005 meeting

31 March 2005

Authors: Roman Gerodimos, Maria Zisouli - GPSG Convenors

I. Introduction

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.

II. Members and Officers

a. The Committee

The core team comprises of:

Convenors: Roman Gerodimos (Bournemouth) rgerodimos@bournemouth.ac.uk,

Maria Zisouli (AUEB) zisouli@otenet.gr

Secretary: Andrew Liaropoulos (Swansea) aliaropoulos@hotmail.com

Member: Marina Petrelli (Athens) mpetrelli@pspa.uoa.gr

Greek Politics Specialist Group

The Committee held its first formal meeting on 30 December 2004, in Athens, where administrative issues (bank account) and basic constitutional rules where agreed upon (quorum, AGM etc). The minutes are attached (see Appendix 2).

Further appointments (e.g. Newsletter Editor, Events Officer, Treasurer) will be made in the next few months according to the Group's needs and the decisions of the AGM.

b. The Members

As of March 31st, GPSG has 85 members (full list attached, see Appendix 2) [up 21 from the original 64 founding members] and is introducing more and more scholars to the work of the Political Studies Association.

III. Activities

a. Setting up the Group

As predicted, the first few months of the Group's life were spent on administrative and operational matters, such as conducting a wide consultation amongst members about the Group's activities and structure; and setting up its website (http://www.psa.ac.uk/spgrp/greek/GreekPol.htm). GPSG is opening an account with National Westminster Bank plc. [we faced several difficulties in our collaboration with NatWest but the account is expected to be operational shortly].

b. Panels at the 55th Annual PSA Conference; collaboration with the Political Marketing Group (PMG)

One of the key activities this first year has been convening panels for the annual PSA conference at Leeds. That included releasing a Call For Papers; reviewing the submitted abstracts and selecting those to be presented (initially 14, ultimately 12); sorting papers into coherent and useful panels; collecting the full papers; reading/commenting on them; collecting the final drafts; submitting the papers to the conference website.

The GPSG has a strong presence at the 55th Annual Conference with four panels and eleven papers of high standard. The panels are entitled:

- 1] Greek Foreign and Defence Policy
- 2] The Evolution of the Greek State

- 3] Political Parties, Civic Participation and Political Expression in Greece
- 4] Political Marketing in Greece in collaboration with the *Political Marketing Group* (PMG), which was a key aim from the outset.

Furthermore, two of our graduate members who were initially scheduled to present in one of our panels will present their paper at a different session (Art & Politics).

Another key target of the Group was to encourage the participation of postgraduates, doctoral candidates in particular, facilitating their attendance at Leeds. Thus, we devoted almost the entire first year's budget in sponsoring doctoral students-GPSG members who are presenting a paper at the conference by covering their graduate fee (£75, provided that they become PSA members). We consider this a key step in bringing the academic communities of the countries closer and encouraging the exchange of expertise and research practice amongst graduates and PSA members.

c. Thematic Networks

Another very important aspect of GPSG's work has been the six Thematic Networks. Several Group members have kindly offered to act as Co-Ordinators and four of those networks are already operational.

Network A: Greece and the Challenge of a 25-Member EU

Network B: Political Communication and Civil Society (Dr. Prodromos Yannas, Kastoria)

Network C: Political Parties and the Political System in Greece (Nikos Bilios, Athens)

Network D: Political Economy (Dimitris Tsarouhas, Sheffield)

Network E: Foreign Policy and Defence Strategy (Andrew Liaropoulos, Swansea, and Marina Petrelli, Athens)

Network F: The Social State and the Greek Citizen

The first step has been to prepare a document for each Network stating its aims, presenting a relevant bibliography and a list of weblinks. Those documents are currently being formatted and will be posted on our website shortly. They constitute only a first step in our effort to facilitate research and networking amongst experts. In the medium term, and once all documents have been collated, the Group should have a good basis for further development and pools of experts according to thematic area.

d. Newsletters

We have already produced two newsletters (one per three months: October 2004, January 2005) and the next one will be available in April, continuing on that quarterly basis. The newsletters are emailed to all members and become immediately available online (http://www.psa.ac.uk/spgrp/greek/GreekPol.htm). It is expected that as the Group develops, the Newsletter will grow into an autonomous and distinct online publication-cum-forum featuring contributions by several members.

e. The AGM

The Group's first Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during the 55th PSA Conference at the University of Leeds on Tuesday, 05 April 2005. The purpose of the AGM is to update members on the Group's activities (as stated in this document); set the Group's strategy for the next year; deal with administrative and operational matters.

IV. Proposed Activities for 2005/06

a. Panel at the 20th IPSA World Congress, Fukuoka, Japan

After a Call for Papers, GPSG has submitted a panel proposal at the 20th World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) taking place in July 2006 in Fukuoka, Japan. The Congress is entitled "Is Democracy Working?" and our panel, which will be partly funded by the Group's 2005 budget, aims to provide cutting edge research on democracy in Greece, and also to promote the aims and activities of GPSG. The proposed panel features three papers covering a range of political science approaches on Greek democracy:

Paper 1. N. Sartzetakis, I. Papadopoulou and A. Veneti (National Capodistrian University of Athens), "Freedom of Expression in Modern Greece"

Paper 2. R. Gerodimos (University of Bournemouth), "The Role of Political Communication in Greek Crisis Governance: Updating Democracy"

Paper 3. M. Zisouli & E. Apospori (Athens University of Economics and Business), "Civic Participation, Voting Criteria and Communication in Greek Democracy"

b. Support of Doctoral Candidates presenting at the 2nd LSE PhD Symposium

After the success of its 1st PhD Symposium, the Hellenic Observatory of the London School of Economics and Political Science will be holding its 2nd PhD Symposium (entitled "Current Social Science Research on Greece") in June 2005. The event will be an opportunity for current and recent research students to present their work and network with colleagues from various universities and countries. The Hellenic Observatory is one of the biggest academic hubs on Greek politics in the world and is the base for several of our members. Thus, GPSG will be devoting a part of its 2005 budget in support of doctoral students from Greece so that they attend and present at the Symposium. We strongly encourage applications from "regional Greece" and from researchers who would not normally be able to attend without external financial support.

c. Greek Political Science Directory

One of our medium/long-term goals is to build a database of Greek politics / IR departments, scholars and internet links that would take the form of an online directory (in the first instance). That would be a helpful resource for prospective students; scholars seeking networking and exchange of expertise; practitioners interested in knowledge transfer or enterprise; the media.

d. Athens Event

We are in the first stages of planning for a research seminar in Athens (with a likely date sometime in the autumn of 2005). The event will be partly supported by the Group's budget and will be a collaborative effort with departments or research institutes (think-tanks) in Greece. The funding would cover operational expenses (room booking, catering) and/or some of the travel expenses for UK speakers. The theme and details of the event have yet to be defined but we are very keen to make this a very practical/grounded seminar possibly leading to policy proposals or some form of published output. Further consultation with members on the ideal topic and way to achieve that aim will be carried out shortly.

V. Expenditure

a. 2004 Budget

GPSG was provided with £750 in October 2004 (with a further £50 payable if necessary after any payment has been made). Given the difficulties in opening a bank account (see above) and the timeline of the planned expenditure we have not yet cashed the cheque or spent the money, although we have earmarked the entire amount into the following specific expenses (to be paid as soon as the account is operational):

1. SUPPORT FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AT LEEDS:

Nine scholarships of £75 each to the following individuals (provided that they attend and present at Leeds):

Nikolaos Bilios Iordanis Kotzaivazoglou Panos Lambridis Andrew Liaropoulos Konstantinos Maragakis Ira Iliana Papadopoulou Marina Petrelli Anna Vallianatou Anastasia Veneti

SUBTOTAL 1: £ 675

[Given the nature of the payments, it was agreed with Prof. Jon Tongue, that the sponsored individuals will sign a written declaration stating that they have presented at the Conference and that they have received the said money; we will provide the PSA Exec with those declarations, as well as receipts of the individuals' travel expenses, as soon as they become available]

2. ADVERTISEMENT IN SYNTHESIS: A JOURNAL OF MODERN GREEK POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

In order to promote the Group's mission and reach across the academic communities of Britain and Greece we will be shortly advertising at *Synthesis*. The cost of a full-page ad is £80.

SUBTOTAL 2: £80

[Receipt will be submitted as soon as the payment takes place].

TOTAL FOR 2004: £ 755

b. 2005 Budget

We have submitted the following provisional budget to the PSA Executive Committee for its April 2005 meeting:

1. SUPPORT FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES PRESENTING AT THE 2^{ND} LSE	
SYMPOSIUM:	200

2. RESEARCH SEMINAR IN ATHENS: £200

3. GPSG PANEL AT THE 20TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE IPSA £300

4. COMMITTEE / MEETINGS EXPENSES £100

TENTATIVE TOTAL FOR 2005: £800

Appendix 1: List of Members

Dimitrios Akrivoulis (University of Western Macedonia)

Vasilios Alevizakos (LSE)

Andreas Antoniades (LSE)

Eleni Apospori (Athens University of Economics and Business)

George Avlonitis (Athens University of Economics and Business)

Nikolaos Bilios (University of Athens)

Theresa Capelos (University of Leiden)

Theodore Chadjipadelis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Sophia Chadzidi (University of York)

Tassos Chardas (University of Sussex)

Lilie Chouliaraki (University of Copenhagen)

George Christidis (University of Western Macedonia)

Dimitris Christopoulos (University of the West of England)

Nikos Chrysoloras (LSE)

Dimitris Chryssochoou (University of Crete)

Alexandros Dagkas (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Nikos Demertzis (University of Athens)

Katerina Diamantaki (University of Athens)

Christos Dimas (LSE)

Sergios Dimitriadis (Athens University of Economics and Business)

Howard Elcock (Northumbria University)

Kevin Featherstone (LSE)

Eleni Gavra (University of Western Macedonia)

Nikos Georgarakis (University of Athens)

Vassiliki Georgiadou (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)

Roman Gerodimos (University of Bournemouth)

Dora Giannaki (Queen Mary, University of London)

Leda Glyptis (LSE)

Costas Hadjiconstantinou (University of Western Macedonia)

Harilaos Harissis (University of Piraeus)

Achilleas Ioakimides (Vernicos Yachts)

Panayiotis Ioakimidis (University of Athens)

Petros Ioannidis (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)

Anastasios Karakatsanis (University of East Anglia)

Athina Karatzogianni (University of Nottingham)

Harissa Kastrioti (University of Athens)

Stephanos Katsikas (UCL)

Gerasimos Konidaris (University of Sheffield)

Thanasis Kotsiaros (University of Athens)

Iordanis Kotzaivazoglou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Stavros Kourtalis (University of Athens)

Kalliopi Kyriakopoulou (University of Kent)

Stella Ladi (University of Sheffield)

Panos Lambridis (University of Athens)

Costantinos Laoutides (University of Wales at Aberystwyth)

Georgios Lappas (TEI of Western Macedonia, Kastoria)

Andreas Liaropoulos (University of Wales, Swansea)

Georgios Maniatis (University of Athens)

Ioannis Manos (University of Western Macedonia)

Konstantinos Maragakis (University of Athens)

Michalis Meimaris (University of Athens)

Alexandros Melidis (Arcadia Center for Hellenic, Balcan and Mediterranean Studies)

Adamantios Dionysios Minas (University of Athens)

Rosa Monou (Athens University of Economics and Business)

Dionysis Nassopoulos

Stamatoula Panagakou (University of York)

Dionysis Panos (University of Athens)

Dimitris Papadimitriou (University of Manchester)

Vangelis Papadimitriou

Ira Papadopoulou (University of Athens)

Stelios Papathanassopoulos (University of Athens)

Nikos Patiniotakis (Athens University of Economics and Business)

Achilleas Penglaris

Costas Perezous (University of Athens)

Marina Petrelli (University of Athens)

Nelly Psarrou (University of Crete)

Michael Joseph Romanos (LSE)

Athanassios Samaras (Institute of Mediterranean Studies)

Miltiadis Sarigiannidis (University of Western Macedonia)

Nektarios Sartzetakis (University of Athens)

Nikos Serdedakis (University of Crete)

Yannis Stavrakakis (University of Athens)

Appendix 2: Minutes of 1st Committee Meeting

Greek Politics Specialist Group

Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG) of the Political Studies Association (PSA)

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Athens on December 30th, 2004.

<u>Present</u>: Maria Zisouli (Convenor), Andrew Liaropoulos, Marina Petrelli, Roman Gerodimos (Convenor/Chair)

Apologies: None

It was resolved that:

I. BANK ACCOUNT

1. National Westminster Bank plc be requested to act as the bankers of the Organisation

Meanings of words used in this Authority

- "Account" means an account or accounts held with the Bank in the name of the Organisation.
- "Bank" means National Westminster Bank Plc

Authority

- 2(a). The Bank is requested to open or continue an Account in the name of the Organisation and is authorised to accept instructions [subject to section 2(b) below in respect of instructions not in writing] (i) for operations on the Account and (ii) to release items held in security or safe custody in the name of the Organisation from the Convenor on behalf of the Organisation, even if the account becomes overdrawn as a result of the Instructions.
- 2(b) Where Instructions to the Bank are given in any form that is not in writing ['writing' means for this purpose a document bearing an original written authorised signature(s)] the Bank is entitled to accept them if satisfied that the instruction is genuine. The Organisation accepts that the Bank may required them to enter into a separate agreement(s) with the Bank and/or comply with any further conditions covering any means of providing Instructions that are not in writing;
- 2(c) The Bank should send statements of account to the Convenor of the organisation of the following Address: Roman Gerodimos, Room R305, Royal London House, Lansdowne, Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BH1 3LT.

Constitution of the Organisation

- 3. The Bank is to be: -
- (a) given a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Organisation and any amendments made thereafter, certified as correct by the Secretary
- (b) given authorised signatories sheet(s) (certified as correct by the Chairperson and Secretary).

The Secretary shall notify the Bank of resignations and retirements of those authorised to give Instructions.

This authority shall continue notwithstanding any change in the constitution or membership of the Organisation and until receipt by the Bank of a certified copy of a later Resolution amending or rescinding this Resolution.

II. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. AGM

The Group's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during the Annual PSA Conference. The first AGM will take place at the Leeds Conference on April 4 – 7, 2005.

2. Membership

Membership to the Group shall be free. The Group currently has 77 registered members.

3. Committee

The Committee currently consists of the Convenor/s and of the Secretary. Further roles and responsibilities will be clarified during the first AGM. The AGM should be the forum where the composition and functions of the Committee are updated and scrutinised.

4. Quorum

In order for the Committee to convene the following should be present:

- the Convenor/s
- the Secretary
- at least one other member of the Group.

In order for the AGM or for the Group to convene the following should be present:

- the Convenor/s
- the Secretary
- at least six other members of the Group.

5. Annual Report

The Group should produce an Annual Report (presented at the AGM and submitted to the PSA Executive) listing (at least) its aims, activities, budget/income/expenses, membership and administration, plans for the future.

Athens, 30 December 2004

R. Gerodimos Convenor A. Liaropoulos Secretary