

ICLA Research Committee on Comparative Gender Studies

By-Laws

Preamble

The Research Committee on Comparative Gender Studies (RCCGS); hereafter "the Committee") was formally established during the meeting of the Executive Council of the ICLA in Athens on June 6, 2002 (see *ICLA Bulletin* XXI, n° 1, 2002, p. 48). It received permanent status at the meeting of the ICLA Executive Council in Beijing in September 2014, when a vote was taken and passed to award the Comparative Gender Studies Committee the status of Standing Committee (see ICLA Minutes XXXIV - 2014, p. 6), in recognition of the work it had accomplished since its inception.

Article 1

The Committee aims to be a source of information on research repositories, journals, calls for papers, and annual meetings concerned with gender studies. In accordance with the Statutes of the ICLA (Article I), it attempts to realize this objective through international cooperation.

Article 2

The Committee is responsible to the Executive Council of the ICLA and will annually submit a formal account of its activities before the meeting of the Executive Council. As the chair of a Standing Research Committee, the Committee's chair has the right to vote on all issues that come before the Council, except for their own reports, on the condition that the General Assembly has ratified their position as chair.

Article 3

The Committee is an open committee. Anyone with a scholarly interest in comparative gender, sexuality, queer and trans* studies is invited to join the Committee. The Committee especially welcomes graduate students. The Committee has a board, which is composed of a Chair a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and 3 Elected Executive Board Members and 2 elected graduate student members. The committee strives for broad geographical and cultural representation, especially in its officers.

Article 4

All Board Members of the Committee are elected for three years, except the Graduate Student Members, and can be re-elected for another term of three years. Graduate Student Members are elected for two years, with each student elected in alternate years, and can be re-elected for another term of two years. All board member elections will be communicated to the ICLA General Body through the committee's page on the ICLA website

Article 5

A Chair of the Committee whose term has come to an end becomes a Past Chair. As a Past Chair, they remain on the Committee's Board as an advisor to the new Chair for one year after the end of their term as Chair of the Committee.

Article 6

Elections are organized in advance of the ICLA's congress. Members of the Committee are invited to nominate themselves for office. Names of candidates are received and examined by a Nominating Commission consisting of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Secretary. The list of candidates accepted by the Nominating Commission is submitted to the full Committee which elects by ballot as many candidates as there are vacant seats.

Article 7

The Committee meets whenever necessary and in any case just prior to the General Assembly at the international congresses of the ICLA.

Article 8

Votes are decided by the simple majority of members present. The quorum consists of half of the committee membership present or represented, plus one. By majority consent of the Committee, a vote on an urgent matter, or on a matter arising between meetings of the Committee, could be taken electronically via e-mail. In the absence of a quorum or in the interval between Committee meetings, the Chair, after consultation with the Vice-Chair or the Secretary, may, in an emergency, make decisions subject to approval by the Committee via correspondence or at the next meeting of the Committee. A Committee member unable to attend a meeting may designate another member or any qualified person as a proxy provided that the Secretary and the Chair receive a written notification of such proxy before the meeting. No Committee decision will, however, be definitive unless at least one-third of the elected (board) members has agreed to it.

Article 9

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Committee, and the Treasurer of the ICLA, are jointly responsible for finances. They establish the budget which must be approved by the Committee. They propose to the Committee applications for grants and their uses. They audit and approve the financial reports from those who received the funds granted. The Committee is free to receive subventions from private, regional, national or international organizations provided that the acceptance of such subventions does not conflict with the statutes of the ICLA and is approved by the Committee.

Article 10

Available funds are deposited in one of the ICLA accounts kept by the Treasurer of the ICLA. If the Treasurer is not a member of the Committee, they will attend the meetings as a non-voting member. The Treasurer will report to the Committee at least once a year.

Article 11

The activities of the Committee shall comprise the convening of conferences and symposia, the publication of scholarly works, and all other activities which further the objective of the Committee as described in Article 1. Members are expected to participate in the activities of the Committee in the following ways:

- Participation in annual meetings/workshops of the Committee, normally at least 2 during the 3-year term, unless a good reason is conveyed to the Officers of the Committee for participating in fewer meetings.
- Constructive contributions to the ongoing business of the Committee outside of the annual meetings, in support of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, which may include: helping to frame future meetings; contributing to the continuity of the Committee by nominating new members; participating in e-mail discussions of Committee business; helping to find a publisher and to edit proceedings.

Article 12

The Executive Council of the ICLA has the right to dissolve the Committee (Art. VII, par. 3 of the Statutes of the ICLA).

Article 13

A motion to change these by-laws must be made by at least two members of the Committee and be conveyed in writing, by the Secretary, to all members of the Committee at least one month before the date of the next meeting. Voting on the by-laws follows the provisions of Article 8. Any change in the by-laws must be approved by the Executive Council of the ICLA.

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