

BYLAWS
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

Last Amended: 13 August 2025

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (herewith referred to as the Association).

Article II. Objectives

The Association shall be a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit professional scholarly organization dedicated to the study of the cultures and societies of the regions where Persian has historically been a significant presence and major cultural force.

The objectives of the Association are as follows:

- a. to promote research in the humanities and social sciences in the broad sense of the terms, including but not limited to such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, history, law, linguistics, literature, political science and sociology, and visual, material and spatial cultures;
- b. to create, develop and encourage scientific, cultural and educational exchange and communication, both at the international level and within the Persianate world;
- c. to publicize and disseminate the results of research and activities of members of the Association in the Persianate societies in order to promote mutual understanding, and enhance the level of civic consciousness and public culture;
- d. to engage in external activities, including cooperation in a variety of ways with other research and cultural organizations with similar goals, the introduction of its members to exchange opportunities, the exploration of possibilities of initiation and participation in international cooperative research, and joint sponsorship of research and cultural projects.

The Association shall carry out these objectives through the publication of a Journal; the organization of scientific gatherings, workshops and conferences; facilitation of the publication of the members' works; and encouragement of academic exchange.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Types of Membership. There shall be six categories of members: Regular, Student, Non-

Paying, Lifetime, Honorary and Institutional Members.

- a. Regular Members shall be individuals interested in the study of Persianate societies and who may meet such qualifications as are established by the Board. Annual dues as established by the Board must be paid to retain membership. The Board may set different membership dues for Regular Members from different countries.
- b. Student Members. The Board may admit as Student Members registered full-time graduate and undergraduate students interested in Persianate societies who may meet such qualifications as may be established by the Board. Annual dues as established by the Board must be paid to retain membership.
- c. Non-paying Members. Non-paying Members shall be individuals or organizations from soft currency countries. These may include countries in which ASPS may not, or may only with difficulty, collect membership dues due to sanctions. Non-paying Members shall have the same rights as Regular Members.
- d. Lifetime Members. Lifetime Members shall be individuals contributing \$1500,00 or more for the privilege of becoming the members of Association for life. All rights and duties of Regular Members shall accrue to Lifetime members. The fees of Lifetime membership are subject to change pursuant to the decision of the Board and will affect only those newly recruited Lifetime members who join following such decision.
- e. Honorary Members. Honorary Members shall be limited to outstanding internationally-recognized scholars who have made major contributions to the study of Persianate societies. The board may bestow up to one Honorary Membership ~~every two years~~^{per year}. Each Honorary Member may retain that status until his or her resignation or death. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all rights and duties of Regular Members but shall not pay dues.
- f. Institutional Members. The Board may admit as Institutional Members without the voting privilege academic or philanthropic institutions which meet such qualifications as may be established by the Board. Representatives of such institutions shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Association and shall receive all publications of the Association. Annual dues as established by the Board must be paid to retain membership.

Section 2. Standing of Members. Any member who is three months in arrears of annual dues shall be deemed not in good standing as defined by the Board.

Section 3. Resignation and Removal of Members. A member in any category of membership may be removed at any time by a vote of the majority of the membership upon the recommendation by the Board. Any member in any category may resign at any time.

Article IV. Meetings of the Association

Section 1. Annual or Biennial Conferences. Conferences shall be held annually or biennially at a time and place to be determined by the Board. The Board shall take into account the diversity of regions encompassed in the study of Persianate societies and shall plan the location of the Conferences on a rotation basis insofar as possible. The President shall appoint at least two conference chairs in preparation of the Conferences. The conference chairs may create further committees with board and non-board members to prepare the conference.

Section 2. General Assemblies. General assemblies open to members and guests of the Association shall be held at the time and place of the Annual or Biennial Conferences. There shall be a quorum for the General Assembly of at least 20 voting members of the Association in good standing. In the absence of a quorum, the Meeting may be held, but no votes may be taken. General Assemblies shall be recorded, or minutes shall be taken. Minutes and recordings shall be kept in the ASPS online archive.

Article V. The Board.

Section 1. Responsibilities. The affairs and property of the Association shall be managed by a Board. Members of the Board will assist in organizing the biennial conference and/or serve on other committees and sub-committees as requested and assigned by the President. The Members shall act only as a Board, and individual Board Members shall have no power as such.

Section 2. Meetings and Action.

- a. Annual Board Meetings. There shall be at least two meetings of the Board annually. These meetings shall be recorded, or minutes shall be taken. Minutes and recordings shall be kept in the ASPS online archive.
- b. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board shall be called at any time by the President or upon the request of no less than one-half of the Board.
- c. Notice of Meetings. Notice of each meeting of the Board shall be served by email to each Board Member no less than two weeks before the meeting.
- d. Quorum. At all meetings of the Board, the presence of at least one-half of the Board shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum.
- e. Action Without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting of the Board if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent shall be filed with the

minutes or proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board.

Section 3. Composition of the Board. The Board shall consist of a number of voting members: The President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, at least eight at-large members elected by the Association membership, Directors of the Regional Offices, and several ex officio members, including but not limited to the ASPS Newsletter Editor, CERF Director, JPS Editor, and, if applicable, the JPS Associate Editor(s).

Section 4. Election of At-Large Members of the Board. Of the At-Large Members of the Board, one shall be a graduate student of good standing, and another shall be an early-mid career scholar. One Board member shall be designated as responsible for coordinating social-media activities and outreach on behalf of the Association and in collaboration with the Newsletter editor. The At-Large Members of the Board shall be elected by the members of the Association by a plurality of the votes cast, for three-year staggered terms, except for the graduate student, who shall serve for two years on the board, with the position starting in non-conference years. Each elected board member shall continue in office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal in accordance with these Bylaws. Any vacancy caused by failure to elect the full number of members or the death, resignation or removal of any member, shall be filled by the vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board. Each board member's term of office begins on January 1 of the next calendar year following his or her election. Only Members in good standing shall be eligible to serve on the Board.

Section 5. Directors of the Regional Offices. Directors of the Regional Offices are members of the Board for the duration of their terms. Any Regional Director may resign at any time.

Article VI. Executive Board and Officers

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following officers: the President, President-Elect, Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Past-President will join the Executive Board in the absence of a President-Elect. No person shall hold more than one of the aforementioned offices at the same time.

Section 2. Election of Officers and Term Limits. The President shall be elected by the members for a three-year term from among any current or previous members of the ASPS Board, the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Persianate Societies*, and members in good standing for three consecutive years. The Office of President cannot be held by the same person for consecutive terms. The incoming president will serve as President-Elect for one year prior to taking office. The outgoing president will serve as Past-President on the board for three years following their presidential term. The Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by the members for four-year renewable terms. Terms shall start in non-conference years. The elections for Vice President and

Secretary shall be staggered.

Section 3. Nomination of Candidates. The Nominating Committee shall nominate two Members each for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary. Additional nominations may be made by petition from the membership to the Nominating Committee. Any Member may be nominated for any Office or for Member of the Board by a petition signed by twenty-five members in good standing, provided the petition is received by a date announced by the Nominating Committee. For the position of Treasurer, the Nominating Committee may choose to nominate only one candidate. The Secretary shall conduct the ballot by email and/or online. If the Secretary is running for re-election, the Vice President shall conduct the ballot. Ballots shall be sent out in sufficient time so that they may reasonably be returned by a deadline before each semiannual meeting of the Board. Only the ballots of members in good standing shall be counted.

A plurality of the votes cast shall be required for election. Any tie in the election shall be resolved by a majority vote of the Board.

In preparing the list of nominees, the Nominating Committee shall keep in mind the desirability of having representation on the Board of scholars representing interests in the various Persianate societies, in the various disciplines prominent in the study of Persianate societies, and the various regions in which scholars of Persianate societies reside.

Vacancies of Officers may be filled by a majority vote of the Board, and in extraordinary circumstances, by a majority vote of the Board the terms of serving Officers may be extended by one year.

Section 4. Duties of Officers.

a. President. The President shall preside over the Board Meetings and General Assemblies. He or she shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall have general supervision of the affairs and property of the Association. When authorized by the Board, the President may sign and execute, in the name of the Association, contracts and other instruments, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board to some other officer or agent of the Association.

b. Vice President. The Vice President shall directly collaborate with the President of the Association in the general supervision of the affairs and property of the Association, on a regular basis. Additionally, he/she will assist the President with fundraising and the writing of grant applications. In the event of the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside over the Board and/or the General Assembly. When authorized by the President and, in his/her absence, by the Board, the Vice President may sign and execute, in the name of the Association, contracts and other instruments, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board to some other officer or agent of the Association. He or she shall be responsible for co-organization of the biennial conference in collaboration with the

Secretary and for overseeing efforts to identify and secure locations for future conferences.

c. Secretary. The Secretary shall act as the executive officer of the Association in the management of its affairs and shall keep minutes of board meetings. The Secretary shall act under the supervision of the President, first and foremost, and of the Board. He or she shall be responsible for the routine administration of the Association, (co-)organization of its biennial conferences and overseeing regular publication of its Newsletter.

d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep the membership rolls, collect the membership dues and prepare the annual tax reports. The Treasurer shall act under the supervision of the President, first and foremost, and of the Board, and be responsible for all funds of the Association and shall keep or cause to be kept and be responsible for the keeping of accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and transactions of the Association. The treasurer shall advise on all ASPS grant applications. In general, he or she shall perform all duties incident to the Office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board. Instructions to shift funds must be made in person or by teleconference (not by simple email) by the President or the Secretary. To ensure ASPS has continued access to its accounts in the event that the treasurer should be incapacitated, the Secretary or another member of the Board shall at all times be a co-signatory on the account.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the Board. The Board shall keep in mind the desirability of having representation on the Nominating Committee of scholars from the various Persianate societies, from the various regions in which scholars of Persianate studies reside, and the various disciplines prominent in the study of Persianate societies. The Nominating Committee shall nominate Members as candidates for office as outlined in Article VI, Section 3.

Section 2. Other Committees. The Board may constitute such other committees as it deems appropriate. The Board shall enact rules and regulations for the operation of each committee. The names of the members of each committee and their terms of office shall be made known to the members at least annually.

Article VIII. Regional Offices

There may be several Regional Offices, the number of which shall be established by the Association's Board. Regions to be represented shall include but are not limited to Afghanistan, Australia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Europe, the Indian subcontinent, Iran, Japan and the United States. The Regional Offices shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the

Association's Board. Each Regional Office shall be chaired by a Director for such term of office as is determined by the Board. Directors of the Regional Offices shall submit reports of the activities of their offices to the semiannual newsletter. They are further invited to report on the activities of their offices to the Board at least once a year. The Secretary will be grateful if these reports be submitted one week prior to the relevant board meeting. Regional Offices are encouraged to network among themselves and organize bilateral or multilateral activities.

Article IX. The Association's Periodical

Section 1. The Association shall regularly publish a periodical, the *Journal for Persianate Studies* (JPS), and to this end, appoint an Editor-in-Chief. The Association shall be operationally and financially responsible for the periodical, including for the honoraria for the editorial staff, and the production costs. The journal's accounts shall be managed by the ASPS treasurer.

Section 2. The Editor-in-Chief shall choose and appoint the editorial staff and Members of the Editorial Board. The Editor-in-Chief, together with the editorial staff, have full editorial control of the journal, combined with reporting requirements to the ASPS board. The Editor-in-Chief shall present a written report on the publication schedule of the journal to the ASPS Board twice a year and ask the publisher for a detailed publication report at least once a year (including citation statistics, information on indexing and distribution of access and downloads). Both reports shall be distributed to the ASPS and JPS boards.

Section 3. The Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the Board after a competitive open search. The Editor shall be chosen from a list of qualified scholars prepared by a duly constituted search committee appointed by the President at the start of the Editor's last contract year. The term of the Editor shall be five (5) years. At least one (1) year prior to the end of the incumbent's term, the President and the Executive Board shall appoint a Review Committee to assess the performance of the Editor-in-Chief. The Committee shall prepare and submit its evaluation to the President. If satisfactory, the President and the Executive Board may reappoint the Editor-in-Chief for a second term. With the approval of two-thirds of the board members, an incumbent Editor-in-Chief may be appointed for a third term.

Section 4. The relations between the publisher and ASPS shall be managed by a Publications Committee, consisting of Editor-in-Chief, the Associate Editor(s) if applicable, the ASPS President and the ASPS Vice President.

Article X. The Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF)

The Board shall strive to ensure the continuity of the Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF) and appoint a CERF director to serve renewable 4-year terms. The CERF Director may be appointed from outside the board. The CERF Director shall annually convene a 3-member CERF Committee

to review and rank CERF applications.

Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws.

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by 1) The Board, or 2) petitions signed by at least 50 ASPs members in good standing. Petitions must be received by the Secretary of the Association no later than forty-five days prior to the relevant general assembly. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds of the members attending the general assembly after written notice of the proposed changes has been sent to the membership at least fifteen days before the general assembly.