

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR RELIGIONSPSYCHOLOGIE -
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION**

Article 1: Name

- 1.1. The Association is called the Internationale Gesellschaft für Religionspsychologie – The International Association for the Psychology of Religion.
- 1.2. The Association was founded in 1914 in Nürnberg (Nuremberg), Germany

Article 2: Aims

The object of the Association is to promote the psychology of religion, by

- 2.1. Stimulating the study of the psychology of religion in its widest sense
- 2.2. Providing a forum for the exchange of scholarly information through the organization of conferences and the publication of the Archiv für Religionspsychologie
- 2.3. Pursuing any other means that may facilitate aim 2.1. and 2.2.

Article 3: Membership

- 3.1. Membership categories shall be Regular, Student.
 - 3.1.1. Regular members are academically trained persons who share the objectives of the Society.
 - 3.1.2. Student membership is restricted to those persons enrolled in, or otherwise actively pursuing, a higher academic degree programme.
 - 3.1.3. All members are entitled to attend the Conferences and General Meetings of the Society and to receive its publications and communications. Only Regular members have voting rights and are eligible for elective office.

Article 4: Offices

- 4.1. The Association shall have a Governing Body, called the Board, consisting of seven members.
- 4.2. The members of the Board will be elected at the General Meeting of the Association.
- 4.3. Election of all members of the Board shall be at every second conference of the IAPR. Therefore the members of the board will be appointed for that period. Only one immediate re-election is possible. They may thereafter only stand again for office in the Association after at least one election period out of office.
- 4.4. The Board shall have a President and a General Secretary/Treasurer; for each office a deputy-officer will be assigned.

- 4.5. There shall be separated votes to elect the President and General Secretary/Treasurer by the General Meeting. In order to guarantee continuation of the affairs, the President and the General Secretary/Treasurer should preferably not leave their offices at the same time. The Board may assign all other offices of the Association to its members. After each new election of members to the Board, such offices shall be reassigned.
- 4.6. The General Meeting shall appoint two members who are not serving on the Board to act as a Financial Control Committee (Auditors). The Auditors shall inspect the Society's financial situation and management before the following General Meeting and present its report to this General Meeting. The auditing period is the time between general meetings.

Article 5: Change of Constitution

- 5.1. A General Meeting may make alterations to the contents of this Constitution by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.
- 5.2. Proposals for changes may be made by the Board or by members in writing to the General Secretary/Treasurer.
- 5.3. Any alteration of the Constitution will only be possible when each proposed change has been formally announced to the membership by means of the circulated agenda for the General Meeting.

Article 6: By-Laws

- 6.1. All further affairs are regulated through the by-laws of the Association.

Article 7: Finances

- 7.1. The financial resources of the Association are membership fees, donations, grants, legacies etc.
- 7.2. In the case of the dissolution of the Association, the remaining funds will be donated to an Association pursuing similar aims.

**THE BY-LAWS OF THE
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR RELIGIONSPSYCHOLOGIE -
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Article 1: Membership and Dues

- 1.1. The membership year of the Association shall be from January 1st to December 31st.
- 1.2. Membership starts provisionally on payment of the appropriate fees and becomes official after approval by the Board.
- 1.3. Fees are set by the Board and are subject to ratification by voting members at the General Meeting.
- 1.4. Regular members will receive a copy of the annual Archiv für Religionspsychologie. The price is included in the membership fee. Student members can upgrade their membership to regular membership if they want to receive the Archiv.
- 1.5. The Board will decide upon the membership status of persons who fail to pay their fees.

Article 2: Das Archiv für Religionspsychologie

- 2.1. The Archiv für Religionspsychologie (Archives for the Psychology of Religion) shall be a scholarly, trilingual (English, French and German) journal, published on a regular basis.
- 2.2. Publication of scholarly work in the Archiv is not restricted to members of the Association; members will not be given preferential treatment in the selection of contributions to be published.
- 2.3. The Board delegates the responsibility for the Archiv to one or more Editor(s), who is (or are) advised by an Editorial Board.
- 2.4. All general decisions concerning the Archiv (i.e. not pertaining to the editorial process) are subject to ratification by the board of the Association.

Article 3: The Editor (and vice-Editor) of the Archiv für Religionspsychologie

- 3.1. The Editors of the Archiv are appointed by the board of the Association for three years with the possibility of immediate reappointment.
- 3.2. At least one of the Editors shall be a member or an adjunct member of the Board and prepare a report on the Archiv's affairs for each meeting of the Board.
- 3.3. The Archiv shall have an Editorial Board, consisting of at least five members to advise the Editor(s) on all editorial matters.
- 3.4. Members of the Editorial Board shall serve for five years. The Board of the Association will appoint them. After their term of office, they may be re-appointed immediately.
- 3.5. The Editors shall prepare nominations for editorship of the Archiv and for membership of the Editorial Board.

Article 4: Voting, elections and procedures for decisions

- 4.1. Only members who have signed the attendance list and paid their annual fees are entitled to vote. This pertains to the meetings of the Board as well as to the General Meeting.
- 4.2. The Board may only take decisions if at least half of its members plus one are present.
- 4.3. The board nominates candidates for the next board. All members may nominate additional candidates.
- 4.4. The Board and the General Meeting decide and elect by a simple majority of valid votes, abstentions excluded. If in a vote the number of abstentions is larger than the number of valid votes, the vote shall be declared null and void and shall be repeated. If the number of abstentions is again larger than the number of valid votes, the vote shall be declared inconclusive and a new vote shall be postponed until the next meeting, unless the proposal is withdrawn. A vote on a proposal may be postponed only once.
- 4.5. The Board and General Meeting can only vote on proposals about persons if those have been formally announced in advance by means of the circulated agenda.
- 4.6. Voting for persons shall be done by ballot.
- 4.7. If votes for a person are equal, the voting shall be repeated. If, after a recast, the votes remain equal, the outcome will be decided by lot. If votes on any other issue are equal, the proposal will fall.

Article 5: Duties of Officers

- 5.1. The role of the offices of the Association shall be facilitated by close collaboration between each Officer and Vice-Officer, who may divide tasks among themselves.
- 5.2. In the event of any Officer's resignation or inability to perform the requisite duties, the vice-Officer shall act as Officer.
- 5.3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association. The President represents and speaks for the Association, may sign contracts and other documents on behalf of the Association, except when said duties are assigned to the General Secretary/Treasurer, or any other authorized agent of the Association, such as a Business Manager. It is the President's duty to appoint the Programme Chair, and together with that person(s), arrange the programme of the Association's ensuing Conference.
- 5.4. The General Secretary/Treasurer is to record the minutes of the meetings of the Board and the General meeting of the Association. Within two months of a meeting of the Board, the General Secretary/Treasurer is to deliver said minutes to the Board, with a proposal for the 'announcements from the meetings of the Board'. Within two months, members of the Board shall approve and/or amend the text. The General Secretary/Treasurer will include the 'announcements from the meetings of the Board' in the next Newsletter (or other appropriate publication of the Association).

Within two months of the General Meeting of the Association, the General Secretary/Treasurer will send out minutes of that meeting to all members of the Association for approval by the next General Meeting.

- 5.5. The General Secretary/Treasurer is to prepare and recommend to the Board an annual budget, and to be responsible for executing any major changes in fiscal policy. At the General Meeting, the General Secretary/Treasurer shall present a report of the Association's financial situation and its management since the previous General Meeting.

One month before the following General Meeting the General Secretary/Treasurer shall send this report to the Auditor.

Article 6: The meetings of the Association

- 6.1. The meetings of the Association are: the Conference, the General Meeting and the Meeting of the Board.

6.2. The Conference.

- 6.2.1. The Conference shall be held at least every third year.

- 6.2.2. The board assigns an ad hoc committee to organise the conference. At least one member of the board shall be a member of the ad hoc committee. The committee has to follow regular accounting procedures. An itemised budget and the final accounting should be approved by all members of the ad hoc committee and will be reported to the board. In case of disagreement decisions will be taken by the board of the IAPR.

- 6.2.3. The conference budget developed in consultation between the IAPR Board and the local organizer must be approved in advance, in writing, by the IAPR Board. In the event that the total costs of the conference exceed the agreed-upon budget by more than 5%, the local organizer will provide the IAPR Board with a detailed explanation of the overruns and obtain prior approval for any additional costs. The local organizer will be responsible for covering overruns caused by their negligence or errors. Overruns due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the local organizers should be brought to the attention of the IAPR Board immediately in order for the Board and the local organizers to achieve a consensus resolution.

6.3. The General (or Business) Meeting

- 6.3.1. The General Meeting shall be held at least every third year, usually during the Association's Conference. If half of the membership or two thirds of the members of the Board formally require a special General Meeting, the President shall call the meeting as soon as possible.
- 6.3.2. The General Meeting shall be prepared by the President and the General Secretary/Treasurer.
- 6.3.3. The General Secretary/Treasurer shall send an annotated agenda to every member at least four weeks before the date of the meeting.
- 6.3.4. The date of the following General Meeting shall normally be announced at the close of a General Meeting (and in the minutes of that meeting), and specified in writing to the membership at least four months before the General Meeting in question.
- 6.3.5. Proposals to the General Meeting must be sent to the General Secretary/Treasurer at least two months before the General Meeting.

6.4. The Meeting of the Board

- 6.4.1. The Board of the Association shall try meet at least on an annual basis.
- 6.4.2. The Meeting of the Board shall be announced to members at least two months in advance.

- 6.4.3. The Agenda of the Meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the President and the General Secretary/Treasurer. Any topic raised by any member of the Association in writing to the General Secretary/Treasurer at least one month before the Meeting shall be placed on the Agenda.

Article 7. Change of By-laws

- 7.1. A General Meeting can make alterations to the contents of these By-laws by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members present.
- 7.2. Proposals for changes may be made by the Board or by members in writing to the General Secretary/Treasurer.
- 7.3. An alteration of the By-laws is only possible when each proposed change has been formally announced to the membership by means of the circulated agenda for the General Meeting.

Last changes accepted by the general assembly on August, 22nd, 2025.