



## **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF SPANISH IN SOCIETY (SIS)**

1. The Association shall be known as the International Association for the Study of Spanish in Society (SIS).
2. The aims of the Association shall be to promote the study of Spanish and the languages with which it is in contact in the broad areas of: sociolinguistics, sociology of language, discourse analysis, pragmatics, applied linguistics, intercultural communication, conversation analysis and anthropological linguistics.
3. In order to create an international community of scholars, the Association may:
  - a) Initiate, support and facilitate the organisation of regular workshops by members in their respective countries.
  - b) Organise a conference, normally on a biennial basis, which will act as a forum for the aims of the Association.
  - c) Contribute to the formulation of policy concerning research, learning and teaching in the above areas.
  - d) Facilitate contact between members in order to promote cooperation within the community. A website shall be created and maintained to this end.
  - e) Publish a newsletter.
  - f) Do all such other lawful things as shall further the above objects.

4. Membership of the Association is open to any individual or institution interested in its activities and sympathetic to its aims. Categories of membership, rates of membership subscription and other related matters shall be determined by the Biennial General Meeting of the Association, by a majority vote of the members present. The Biennial General Meeting (BGM), also by a majority vote, may refuse or terminate any individual or institutional membership.
5. The Biennial General Meeting of the Association shall take place at the Association's biennial conference.
6. The Biennial General Meeting shall elect, by secret ballot where deemed appropriate by the BGM, an Executive Committee to conduct the affairs of the Association. This Committee shall comprise the following members:
  - a) Chair
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Communications Officer
7. The Biennial General Meeting shall:
  - a) receive the report of the Executive Committee
  - b) elect the officers of the Executive Committee, where appropriate.
  - c) discuss any other relevant business
8. The Executive Committee may co-opt further members or invite other individuals to attend a meeting for a particular purpose. (The conditions governing such co-option shall be specified in Standing Orders.)
9. The terms of office of members of the Executive Committee shall be specified in Standing Orders.

10. An extraordinary general meeting of the Association shall be convened if any twenty members formally request the secretary to hold such a meeting.

11. The Treasurer and one other member of the Association are empowered to administer the finances of the Association and are responsible to the Committee and to the membership of the Association.

12. The Association may have an Honorary President. (The term of office and functions of the Honorary President shall be specified in Standing Orders.)

13. The Constitution may be amended at the Biennial General Meeting provided that written notice of any proposed amendment shall have been circulated to the membership of the Association at least 2 months before the date of the Biennial General Meeting.

14. Proposals to dissolve the Association shall be subject to the same requirement as for amendments set out above. Any assets remaining in the possession of the Association after the satisfaction of debts or liabilities shall be given to such charitable institution or institutions, having similar aims to those of the Association, as approved by the Biennial General Meeting.

15. No Committee member shall be liable for any loss to the property of the Association arising by reason of any improper investment made in good faith (so long as he/she shall have sought professional advice before making such investment), or for the negligence or fraud of any agent employed by him or her or by any

other Committee member (provided that reasonable supervision shall have been exercised), although the employment of such an agent was strictly not necessary or expedient, or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by a Committee member hereof, or by reason of any other matter or thing other than wilful and individual fraud, wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the Committee member who is sought to be made liable.

## **STANDING ORDERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF SPANISH IN SOCIETY (SIS)**

1. There shall be two categories of membership and subscription. These are standard and a reduced rate for retired and student members.

Standard membership is intended for individuals employed in teaching, lecturing, research or administration in any institution across the world. It will entitle them to full membership rights, including the right to vote or stand in elections.

2. Members of the Executive Committee shall normally be elected for a period of four years, by a majority vote of members present at the BGM, with the right to stand for re-election for a further two years, after which they must stand down for a period of four years before becoming eligible for election again for the same post.

Invitations to stand for membership of the Executive Committee shall be circulated to the Association's membership at least two months before the BGM. Voting at the BGM shall be by secret ballot. A candidate may stand for election to any two posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer.

3. The Executive Committee may co-opt further members. These will normally be the programme organiser and conference secretary of the Association's next conference.

They shall enjoy the same voting rights as the other members of the committee. The Executive Committee may, as it sees fit, propose the creation, fusion or termination of Executive posts.

4. The Executive Committee may invite individuals to attend meetings for particular purposes. Such attendance shall not entitle the individuals involved to voting rights. When travel expenses for such individuals are being claimed, the prior approval of the Treasurer must be obtained.

5. The Executive Committee shall normally meet twice a year. Reasonable travel expenses for these meetings, if not available from other sources, shall be reimbursed by the Association's Treasurer. Permission for additional meetings or expenses must be sought in advance from the Treasurer, whose decision shall be final.

6. The BGM of the Association may at its discretion elect an Honorary President, who may be chosen for outstanding personal or academic qualities, and for his or her known sympathy with the aims of the Association. The Honorary President shall be invited to attend the biennial conference, welcome to the conference distinguished guests and, if requested to do so by the Executive Committee, represent the views of the Association in negotiation or correspondence with national and international bodies.

This text shall be the legally-binding version of the Constitution and the Standing Orders.