

Constitution of the BISA  
“**International Politics of Migration, Refugees and Diaspora**” Working Group

1. Title – ‘*International Politics of Migration, Refugees and Diaspora*’, abbreviated as IPMRD.
2. Outline - The Working Group ‘*International Politics of Migration, Refugees and Diaspora*’ will respond to a growing demand to discuss issues of migration and international politics at BISA. It aims to consolidate discussions within several streams of scholarship, which speak to each other, but are mostly discussed in isolation. The group will incorporate scholarship on how diasporas as non-state actors affect international affairs for democratisation, development, conflict and post-conflict reconstruction, and how sending states exercise their agency to engage diasporas for their own state-building and economic projects. It will also seek to understand large-scale refugee population movements, and especially the current crisis in the Mediterranean, and how such movements speak to issues of human and minority rights, challenges to statehood, and diffusion of ideas across borders. The group will welcome the perspectives of refugees themselves, states, the European Union, UN, and international organizations. These discussions will interact with existing scholarship on migration integration, assimilation, and securitization, as well as on transnational aspects of migration such as building of transnational projects and spaces.
3. Organisational status - The IPMRD Working Group is a “branch” of the British International Studies Association and will satisfy the aims and policies of the Association, including Equal Opportunity policy, and the legal and Charity Commissioner Requirements. The working group will deliver an Annual Report and statement of accounts to the Association by September of each calendar year at the very latest demonstrating that these aims and policies are being adhered to.
4. Statement of membership - Membership of the IPMRD Working Group shall be open to all members, including Postgraduate members, of the British International Studies Association who elect to join the working group, but shall never be less than 10. Membership of the IPMRD Working Group will be free of charge to members.
5. Other interested persons who are not members of the BISA may join the IPMRD Working Group, subject to approval of the working Group, for an additional fee collected separately by the IPMRD Working Group. The IPMRD Working Group will maintain their own records of these members and will also use the BISA membership lists when undertaking a mailing to members.
6. The business of the IPMRD Working Group shall be conducted by a Committee of no fewer than 3 members. Specified roles within the Committee include the following: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each of these roles shall only be undertaken by members of the BISA elected by the Group. The Committee will have the power to co-opt up to two additional members. The majority of the Committee must be members of the BISA.
7. Terms of office - The offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other committee

members shall be for a period of two years. Honorary officers may stand for a second term of two years, but must relinquish their post after the fourth year of office. Retiring honorary officers shall not be eligible for re-election as an Ordinary Member of the Committee if they have served for 4 years, without first having a two-year break from the Committee.

Ordinary Committee members shall be elected for a period of not more than two years. Ordinary Committee members may stand for a second term of two years, but must relinquish their post after the fourth year of office.

Postgraduate members shall be elected for a period of one year and shall not normally be eligible for re-election to the Committee for more than two terms of office.

8. Elections to the Committee will be held at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Members will be informed in writing (email is preferred) 30 days prior to the ABM of all vacancies to be filled. Nominations for Committee membership will be accepted up to the beginning of the ABM. Nominations must be in writing and include the names of the proposer and seconder.
9. The ABM shall normally be held at the BISA Annual International Conference. The IPMRD Working Group must present an Annual Report and Statement of Accounts to the BISA as requested, and normally by September each year. This is to comply with Charity Commissioners guidelines. The working group is expected to manage its funds with due care and for the benefit of the membership of the working group.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by either the Chair and four members (or all other members if fewer than four in total) of the Committee or by any 20 ordinary members of the DRM working group. The Secretary must give at least 30 days' notice of an EGM in writing to all members of the IPMRD Working Group.

10. Changes to the Constitution - The constitution can be changed only by two-thirds majority vote of those present at an ABM, provided that the membership has been individually notified of the proposed changes by email at least 30 days in advance. Working group constitutions that have been altered by the ABM of the working group should then be submitted for approval by the working group liaison person of the BISA.
11. The activities of the working group should not contravene the aims of the British International Studies Association. The IPMRD Working Group may be dissolved only in accordance with the rules of the BISA.