CHARTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

I. Name
This organization will be known as the International Political Sociology Section [IPSS] of the International Studies Association of North America. (The name of the organization in French will be Section pour la sociologie politique de l’internationale [SSPI].)

II. Purposes
1. The aim of the Section is to foster research and scholarly communication in the realm of international and transnational studies and to bridge the domestic and international levels of analysis. The Section’s focus is on the social and cultural dimensions of international studies, broadly conceived. One of its main purposes is to foster innovative epistemological, methodological, analytic and theoretical perspectives on aspects of international studies less central to state-centered, economic, diplomatic and other traditional approaches.

2. The Section strongly encourages interdisciplinary research collaboration and communication and will foster comparative and interdisciplinary studies across subsocietal groups and substate institutions, countries and regions, as well as across time. Its interdisciplinary and comparative purposes will be reflected in such endeavors as the organization of research projects, conference panels, publications and other activities at ISA’s general and regional meetings and elsewhere; in reaching out to other professional associations across the boundaries of disciplines, countries, world regions and sections of ISA. The Section actively seeks members from a wide range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

3. The Section also encourages communication with scholars, educators, members of policy communities and other interested groups outside the framework of ISA. In recognition of the provisions of the constitution of the International Studies Association, such interactions will always provide such interaction flows from scholarly rather than political engagement. Such provisions preclude the engagement of the Section, as an institution, in policy advocacy or partisan political activity.

III. Membership
1. Membership in IPSS is open to all members of ISA who share the purposes and interests of the section and who pay IPSS dues.

2. Section membership conveys the privileges and attendant professional responsibilities of participation in the professional activities and business of the Section, including: voting at the annual business meetings of the Section, to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of ISA; sponsoring and/or standing for election to offices in the Section; proposing panels or other
Section-sponsored events at general or regional ISA meetings and any other venues in which the Section may participate; and receiving the publications and communications of the Section.

IV. Officers

1. The officers of IPSS are the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary-Treasurer and the other members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of, in addition to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, the Communications Director, the immediate Past Chair, and four at-large members elected by the membership. Two of the four at-large members will be elected each year, except in the Section’s first year, as provided in paragraph IV. 3. below.

2. Officers will be elected by secret mail ballot in advance of the Section’s annual business meeting, as provided in section V. below, except in the Section’s first year, as provided in paragraph IV. 3. below.

3. The results of elections will be announced at the annual business meeting. The Vice-Chair will serve as Chair-Elect for one year and will succeed the Chair, also for a one-year term. The Chair may not serve successive terms. The Chair shall serve as Past Chair for one year. The Vice-Chair will also serve as the Chair of the Section’s Program Committee during her or his term. She or he may invite other section members to serve on the Program Committee.

4. Members at the Section’s initial business meeting shall elect a Chair, a Vice-chair, a Secretary-Treasurer and four at-large members of the Executive Committee. Two of the at-large members will be elected for a term of one year and two for two-year terms.

5. The Executive Committee may appoint such officers as it may deem necessary or useful. Such appointments will be for terms not to exceed two years, but may be extended with the consent of the majority of the members assembled and voting at the annual business meeting. Appointed officers will not have voting privileges in Executive Committee meetings.

6. The post of Secretary-Treasurer

   a. will be filled by election for a term of two years, renewable for one additional consecutive term of two years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance and management of the financial accounts of the Section and will provide formal, written, accounting of the Section’s financial condition of the Section at the annual business meeting.

   b. He or she, in conjunction with the Communications Director, will be responsible for the Section’s newsletter and other official media of communication. The Secretary-Treasurer will record the proceedings of the annual business meeting and all meetings of the Executive Committee and will be responsible for maintaining these and other formal records of the Section, including the Charter and any by-laws
the Section may enact, electronic and hard copy membership lists, and other Section documents.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer will be responsible for the timely distribution and collection of the report of the Nominating Committee and any other slates of candidates that may be offered, consistent with the provisions of section V. below.

7. The Communications Director will be appointed by the Chair, with the consent of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, for a term of two years, renewable for one additional two-year term. She or he will manage the Section’s web site and will assist the Secretary-Treasurer in preparing and transmitting electronic communications to the membership. She or he will work with the information specialists of the ISA, to insure efficient and timely coordination between the Section’s communication needs and the communications facilities of the ISA.

V. Nominations and Elections

1. Nominations for the offices to be filled by election will be made by a Nominating Committee, comprised of the at-large members of the Executive Committee and a Section member not at that time a member of the Executive Committee, who is chosen by the Chair. The initial election of officers will take place at the Section’s first official business meeting following chartering through a procedure comprised of nominations from the floor and secret written balloting conducted in place.

2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare lists of one or more nominees for each position to be filled, taking great care to ensure that, over time, the choices among candidates reflect the greatest diversity in disciplinary, intellectual and methodological stances and representativeness in age, gender, and other demographic characteristics, as well as type of institution and geographic provenance consistent with the highest qualifications, abilities and commitment essential to carry on the Section’s work.

In addition to the nominations proposed by the Committee, nominations can be made through petition by ten or more members of the Section, provided such nominations are communicated to the Secretary-Treasurer and the Nominating Committee at least one week before it must circulate the list of nominees to the membership, in conformity with V. 3 below. The Secretary-Treasurer and the Chair of the Nominating Committee will communicate the deadline to the membership sufficiently in advance to permit members to exercise this provision for making nominations.

3. The names and brief biographical sketches of nominees for each vacant position shall be communicated to Section members at least six weeks prior to the annual business meeting at which election results will be announced.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer and the Chair of the Nominating Committee will be jointly responsible for overseeing the form and communication to the membership of the Committee’s report and any other nominations that may be offered in conformity with sections V. 2 and V. 3 of this Charter.

5. Elections will be held by secret mail ballot, to be distributed at least four weeks prior to each annual business meeting and must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer or her/his designated surrogate not later than two weeks prior to that business meeting. All members current in the payment of dues to ISA and the Section will be eligible to vote, make nominations through the procedure indicated in section V. 2 above, and to stand for election. Election results will be announced at the annual business meeting. Newly elected officers will assume office at the close of that business meeting and will hold office until the end of the business meeting at the conclusion of their term – either one or two years, depending on the position, as provided in section IV of this Charter.

VI. Charter Amendments
1. Amendment to this Charter may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a petition of at least ten members of the Section. Proposed amendments will be submitted to the Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section not less than six weeks prior to the annual meeting at which they are to be considered by the membership. Such proposed amendments will be discussed and acted upon at the annual business meeting.

2. If an amendment is approved by a majority of members in attendance at the annual business meeting, it will be submitted to a mail ballot of all current members. Amendments will be deemed adopted if supported by a two-thirds majority of those responding to the mail ballot within one month of its postmark.

3. All amendments to the Charter approved by the Section’s membership in accordance with VI. 1 and 2 above will be submitted to ISA’s Executive Director and Governing Council.

VII. Publication of the Charter
The final version of this Charter, once approved by the Governing Council of ISA and the Section membership, will be posted on the Section’s official website and shall reflect in a timely manner all amendments adopted in accordance with the provisions of section VI of this Charter.