

Bylaws of the International Association of Women Philosophers (IAPh)



1. Name and Location

The Society is called the "International Association of Women Philosophers (IAPh) e.V."
The Society is registered in the membership register of the [German] Registry of Societies.
The Society is based in Berlin.

2: Goals and Purposes of the Society

The IAPh restricts itself to the exclusive and direct pursuit of non-profit goals, according to the article in the [German] tax regulations that specifies which goals are tax exempt or eligible for reduced rates of taxation.

The purpose of the society is to promote the work of women philosophers and women interested in philosophy, across all philosophical fields, and in a national and international context. The aims laid down in the bylaws are to be realized especially in the following ways:

Fostering communication among women employed and/or interested in philosophy, particularly through organizing conferences, publications, and working groups, as well as in collaborative work with other organizations.

Promoting the study of 'the woman question' within the domain of philosophy and in the history of philosophy, i.e. women studies from a philosophical point of view, and its implications in and for praxis.

Undertaking activities that have the goal of improving the working conditions of women philosophers.

Supporting projects that oppose discrimination against women, within the limits of the society's mandate.

The society is independent and non-partisan; it is disinterestedly self-supporting nor, above all, does it serve any self-interested purposes. No one may benefit from financial transactions that are incompatible with the purposes of the society, or profit from excessively high reimbursements.

The assets of the society may be only used for purposes laid down in these bylaws. Members receive no financial benefit from the society's assets.

3: Membership

All professionally engaged female philosophers and women interested in philosophy, both from Germany and abroad, may become members of the IAPh.

Men may become members of the Society, but may not be elected to the Board.

Membership should be applied for in writing. The Board decides on the acceptance of each application, in accordance with the goals of the Society.

Membership terminates with death, discontinuation of membership, or disqualification.

Discontinuation of membership has to be declared in writing to the Board, to be effective at the end of the current financial year. Disqualification from membership on grounds that pertain to the purposes of the organization will be decided by the Board, by a simple majority.

An applicant who has been refused membership and a member who has been disqualified may protest the decision to the General Assembly, which then makes a final decision about acceptance or continuation of membership, with a two-thirds majority of the members who have been convened and are present in accordance with the bylaws.

4: Fees and Financial Resources:

A membership fee is to be paid, the amount of the fee is to be determined by the General Assembly. The membership fee will be submitted to the treasurer.

5: Meetings of the General Assembly:

Invitations to attend meetings of the Society's General Assembly will be issued in writing by the Board in compliance with a prescribed time period of three weeks.

In the matter of electing the Board or other motions, the decision is made by a simple majority of the participating members.

The General Assembly elects the Board, for a period of four years, with a simple majority of those in attendance at the meeting, or from written ballots submitted by those unable to attend. Written ballots must be in the hands of the Board on the day of the General Assembly.

Minutes of the General Assembly are to be prepared and signed by the presiding member of the Board, and by the secretary.

6: Board

In accordance with article § 25 BGB (the German Civil Code), the Board is comprised of an uneven number of 5 to 9 women philosophers. They remain in office until the statutory appointment of the next Board. Members of the Board elect two speakers from their numbers, for a period of four years, and designate a treasurer and a secretary. The Society as a whole is represented, either judicially or extra-judicially, by two members of the Board. Individual Board membership can be rescinded by a majority vote of the Board, in the event of an offence against the bylaws of the Society.

The authority to represent the Board – in case of legal transactions or procedures that affect the way in which the Society is portrayed, both internally and externally, in particular with respect to the kind, direction, planning and implementation of its goals, its public relations and so on – is permitted only by a majority decision of the entire Board.

The Board is empowered to take decisions when all of its members have been alerted to the decision-making process and at least two-thirds of all the members of the Board participate in the decision. Participation in the decision making process may also proceed through writing or telephone.

The authority of the Board with respect to a third party is limited in such a way (§ 26 section 2 article 2 BGB [German Civil Code]) that legal transactions or procedures in excess of 500 euro require a majority decision by the Board.

7: The Business Year

A cycle in any calendar year in which at least one general meeting has been called or alternatively a meeting of the Board, counts as a Business Year. The Business Year also counts as the Fiscal Year.

8: Changes in the Bylaws, Cancellation

Alterations to the bylaws, including modification of the Society's purposes, require a two thirds majority of members participating in the meeting of the General Assembly. Changes to the bylaws must be proposed in the announcement of the General Assembly meeting.

Each modification of a bylaw must be communicated to the appropriate financial authority by sending a copy of the altered bylaw. Dissolution or termination of the Society or cancellation of its existing purposes can be decided only by an extraordinary meeting of General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose, with a three-fourths majority of members who are either present at the meeting, or give written consent.

Changes in the bylaws following official procedures (for example, expenditures or restrictions) may be decided by the Board. They are to be communicated at the next General Assembly.

The Society can be dissolved by a decision of the General Assembly. For a decision to dissolve the Society a majority of 75% of the members present and entitled to vote is required. The matter of dissolution must be the single agenda item of this meeting of the General Assembly.

Liquidation will be carried out by the Board.

Upon the dissolution of the Society or upon termination of its tax-privileged goals, the financial assets of the Society accrue to the Central Directorship for the Promotion of Women's Studies (Zentraleinrichtung zur Förderung von Frauenstudien und Frauenforschung), Königin-Luise-Str. 34, 14195 Berlin, Germany, which will disperse the funds exclusively and directly for non profit purposes in accordance with § 2 of these bylaws.

Decisions about the future use of the Society's assets can be taken only with the consent of the appropriate financial authority.