

ICLA Standing Research Committee on Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature

By-Laws

Preamble

The ICLA Standing Research Committee on Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature (hereafter “the Committee”) was established to promote the study of scriptural reasoning within the field of comparative literature and to encourage sustained scholarly dialogue among different religious, literary, linguistic, and cultural traditions.

Article 1

The Committee aims to promote research on scriptural reasoning and comparative literature through international and interdisciplinary cooperation, in accordance with the Statutes and objectives of the ICLA.

Article 2

The Committee is responsible to the Executive Council of the ICLA and shall submit a formal account of its activities annually before the meeting of the Executive Council. As the Chair of a Standing Research Committee, the Chair of the Committee has the right to vote on matters that come before the Executive Council, except on the Committee’s own reports, provided that the General Assembly has ratified the Chair’s position in accordance with the Statutes and regulations of the ICLA.

Article 3

The Committee is open to scholars and graduate students with an academic interest in scriptural reasoning, comparative literature, religion and literature, comparative scripture, interfaith studies, translation, world literature, and related fields. The Board of the Committee shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and three Elected Executive Board Members.

Article 4

All elected Board Members of the Committee shall serve a term of three years and may be re-elected for one further term of three years. Their election shall be subject to ratification by the Executive Council of the ICLA in accordance with the regulations of the Association.

Article 5

A Chair whose term has come to an end shall become Past Chair and shall remain on the Board in an advisory capacity for one year following the completion of their term.

Article 6

Elections are organized in advance of the ICLA's congress. Members of the Committee are invited to nominate themselves for office. Names of candidates are received and examined by a Nominating Commission consisting of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Secretary. The list of candidates accepted by the Nominating Commission is submitted to the full Committee which elects by ballot as many candidates as there are vacant seats.

Article 7

The Committee meets whenever necessary and in any case just prior to the General Assembly at the international congresses of the ICLA.

Article 8

Votes are decided by the simple majority of members present. The quorum consists of half of the committee membership present or represented, plus one. By majority consent of the Committee, a vote on an urgent matter, or on a matter arising between meetings of the Committee, could be taken electronically via e-mail. In the absence of a quorum or in the interval between Committee meetings, the Chair, after consultation with the Vice-Chair or the Secretary, may, in an emergency, make decisions subject to approval by the Committee via correspondence or at the next meeting of the Committee. A Committee member unable to attend a meeting may designate another member or any qualified person as a proxy provided that the Secretary and the Chair receive a written notification of such proxy before the meeting. No Committee decision will, however, be definitive unless at least one-third of the elected (board) members has agreed to it.

Article 9

The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of the Committee, together with the Treasurer of the ICLA where required by ICLA regulations, shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Committee. They shall prepare any necessary budget for approval by the Committee, propose applications for grants or other forms of academic funding, and oversee the appropriate use of funds received by or on behalf of the Committee. The Committee may receive financial support from private, regional, national, or international organizations, provided that such support does not conflict with the Statutes, principles, or academic independence of the ICLA and has been approved according to the appropriate procedures.

Article 10

Funds belonging to or administered on behalf of the Committee shall be held and managed in accordance with the financial regulations of the ICLA. Where Committee funds are deposited in an ICLA account, the Treasurer of the ICLA shall provide the Committee with appropriate financial information and shall report on such funds at least once a year.

Article 11

The activities of the Committee shall comprise the convening of conferences and symposia, the publication of scholarly works, and all other activities which further the objective of the Committee as described in Article 1. Members are expected to participate in the activities of the Committee in the following ways:

- Participation in annual meetings/workshops of the Committee, normally at least 2 during the 3-year term, unless a good reason is conveyed to the Officers of the Committee for participating in fewer meetings.
- Constructive contributions to the ongoing business of the Committee outside of the annual meetings, in support of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, which may include: helping to frame future meetings; contributing to the continuity of the Committee by nominating new members; participating in e-mail discussions of Committee business; helping to find a publisher and to edit proceedings.

Article 12

The Executive Council of the ICLA retains the authority to dissolve the Committee in accordance with the Statutes and regulations of the ICLA.

Article 13

A motion to change these by-laws must be made by at least two members of the Committee and be conveyed in writing, by the Secretary, to all members of the Committee at least one month before the date of the next meeting. Voting on the by-laws follows the provisions of Article 8. Any change in the by-laws must be approved by the Executive Council of the ICLA.