



## **Gender Audit of the Political Studies Association of Ireland, 2015-2018**

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### **Introduction**

This Gender Audit aims to provide an organisational assessment of the relative participation of women and men in the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI). The data used is as of 1st October, 2018. The data was sourced by the author and the research assistant from membership lists, AGM minutes, conference programmes, the PSAI website, and the 2015 PSAI Gender Audit. The Audit does not examine the PSAI's peer-reviewed journal, *Irish Political Studies*, as the editorial team monitors this data separately.

It is recognised that other intersectional categories of identity, such as socio-economic status, age, race and ethnicity, also work in tandem with gender to influence individual levels of participation in the PSAI and political studies on the island more broadly.

Since 2014 the PSAI Executive Committee has had a Gender Mainstreaming Officer. In 2015 it was agreed that a Gender Audit of the association would be carried out every three years (the next one should be presented to the EC and AGM in 2021), to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in relation to gender equality and to work towards addressing any gaps.

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PSAI Gender Mainstreaming Officer

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## Membership

The proportion of female members of the PSAI has fallen to approximately 29%, compared to 35% in 2014.<sup>1</sup> On average, women accounted for one-third of members of national political studies associations surveyed by IPSA in 2017.<sup>2</sup>

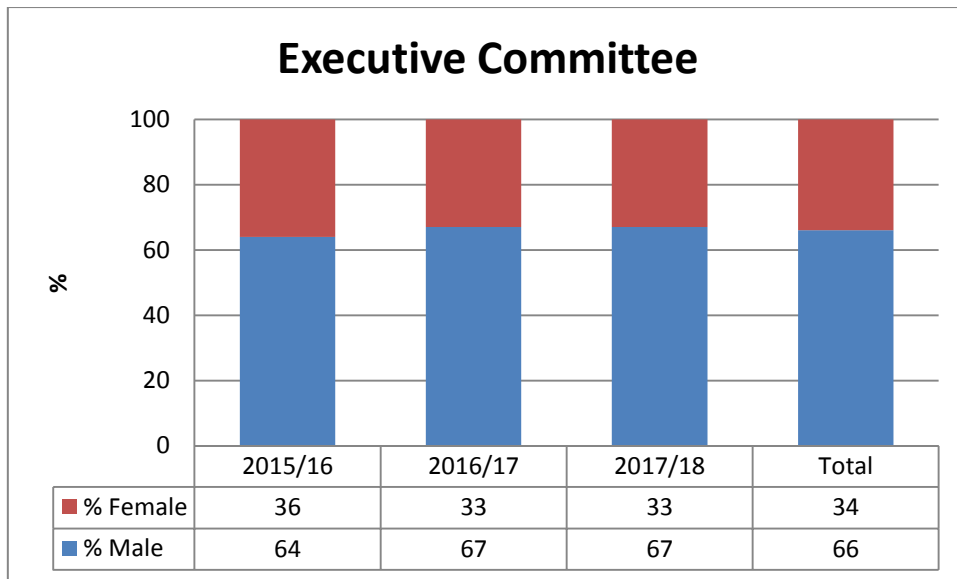


## Executive Committee

The PSAI's Executive Committee (EC) is elected each year at the Association's AGM, held during the Annual Conference. 12 (34%) of the 35 seats on the EC between 2015 and 2018 were held by women: four seats on each EC.

<sup>1</sup> However, the membership list provided to us by T&F is incomplete as it does not include those who have yet to pay subs for 2019.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ipso.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/IPSA%20Gender%20and%20Diversity%20Monitoring%20Report%202017\\_FINAL%20%28web%20version%209.pdf](https://www.ipso.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/IPSA%20Gender%20and%20Diversity%20Monitoring%20Report%202017_FINAL%20%28web%20version%209.pdf)



Throughout the PSAI’s history, only two women have served as president and a woman has not held this position since 2005. The vice-presidency has been held by women since 2012. The secretary position has been all-male since 2015. A female and a male has been treasurer over this time. Postgraduate representation has been all-female since 2015.

Informally, it has been practice to ensure that sub-groups of the EC (e.g. PhD prize and Book Prize committees) include at least one female or male member. This has been achieved over the past three years.

### Specialist Groups

The PSAI currently has 12 specialist groups, as a way of supporting those who teach and research across the disciplinary spectrum. All members of specialist groups must also be or become PSAI members. These specialist groups are an effective networking resource through which contacts and research partnerships can be developed.

Each specialist group has two co-convenors (usually located in different institutions) apart from the Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group which has six. In 2015 68% of co-convenors were female and 32% male. Better balance has been achieved over the past three years, with 54% female co-convenors at present and 46% male. Three specialist groups have all-male co-convenors and four have all-female. Five are gender-balanced.

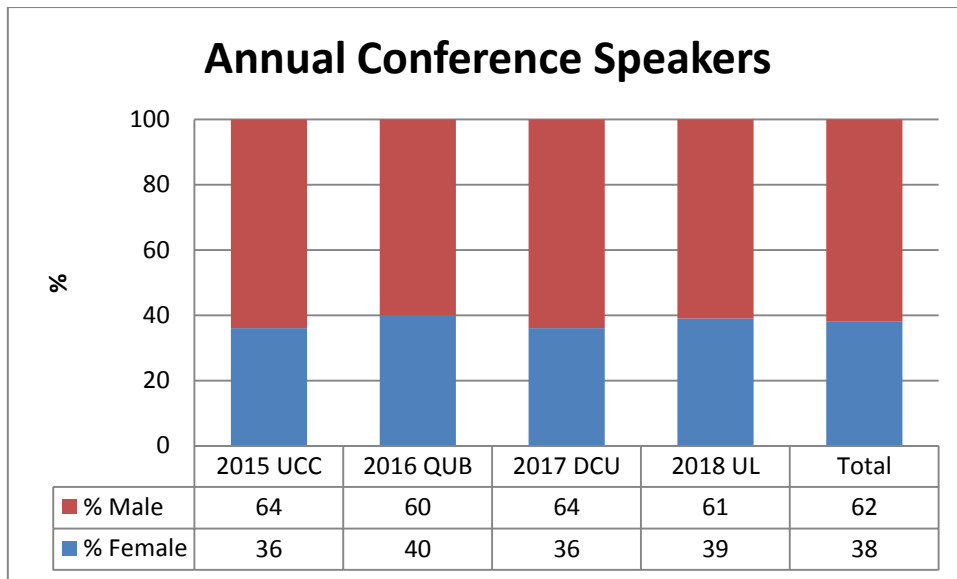
<b>Specialist Group</b>	<b>Male Co-Convener(s)</b>	<b>Female Co-Convener(s)</b>
Big Data, Text Analysis, and Methodology	2	0
Environmental Politics Specialist Group	1	1
Environmental Politics Specialist Group	1	1
Gender and Politics Specialist Group	0	2
International Relations and Area Studies Specialist Group	2	0
Local Government Specialist Group	2	0
Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group	3	3
Peace and Conflict Specialist Group	1	1
Political Theory Specialist Group	1	1
Public Policy Specialist Group	0	2
Teaching and Learning in Politics Specialist Group	0	2
Voters, Parties and Elections Specialist Group	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>54%</b>

### **Prizes**

In 2015 the EC agreed that no further PSAI prizes should be named after a man until a woman was. In 2018 the Best Paper prize was named after the late Professor Elizabeth Meehan. Two prizes are named after men, the Basil Chubb PhD Prize and the Brian Farrell Book Prize, and the Teaching and Learning Prize is not named after any individual.

### **Annual Conference**

The proportion of females presenting papers at the PSAI Annual Conference was relatively stable between 2015 and 2018, with a total of 38%. This includes keynote speakers, roundtables and plenary sessions.



Based on the conference programme, only 25% of conference chairs in 2015 were female (compared to 36% of presenters). This increased to 38% in 2016 and 34% in 2018 (data for 2017 N/A).

There is wide variation in the proportion of all-male panels or “manels” across the four conferences, from 25% of all panels in 2015 compared to just 6% in 2018. By contrast, the proportion of all-female panels at each conference moves between 3% and 11%. The 2018 Annual Conference has the lowest proportion of one-gender panels since at least 2008 (the earliest data we have).

The Peter Mair lecture is delivered at the association’s Annual Conference and is to be published in *Irish Political Studies*. Since the lecture was established in 2012, four speakers (57%) have been female and three male (43%).

#### **Postgraduate Conference**

At the 2018 Postgraduate Conference in UCD, four papers were given by females (40%) and six by males (60%). All three panels included female and male speakers.

Data from the 2016 Postgraduate Conference in QUB was unavailable.