

VSSN Elections 2011

There are 3 vacancies for the **Steering Group of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network**.

The following VSSN members have put their names forward for election.

| Name of Candidate | Supporting Statement |
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| Kane, David | <p>I am interested in joining the VSSN steering group, and am particularly interested in helping VSSN to develop its website.</p> <p>I have a large amount of experience in using the web to communicate research findings, and in creating and managing websites. I have created a number of websites myself, including http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/, http://data.ncvo-vol.org.uk/ and http://www.skylarknetwork.org.uk/, and am a regular user of web technologies such as PHP, MySQL and WordPress. I also regularly contribute content to the NCVO website, including writing a blog (http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/116). I'm particularly interested in how the web changes how researchers present their data and results, and whether the open data agenda has implications for research findings.</p> <p>I have been a member of VSSN for 4 years, since joining the NCVO Research Team, and in that time have attended five "Researching the Voluntary Sector" conferences, and presented papers at two of them. I'm a co-author of NCVO's Almanac series (for which I am responsible for management and analysis of the research data) and also have a keen interest in other voluntary sector research issues, particularly around measurement and classification of voluntary and civil society organisations and the economy of the sector.</p> |

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| <p>Kyneswood, Benjamin</p> | <p>Web Services</p> <p><u>Experience</u> I have experience in developing websites for my previous employer. The website, for a community radio station, required interactivity for both the 120 weekly presenters as well as the audience. Presenters were expected to interact with listeners, whilst I provided development and support.</p> <p>I am using blogs as a research method in my PhD research, and created them using Wordpress. I have also developed a social network for my participants at their request.</p> <p>I have also acted as a Charity trustee of Access Space in Sheffield, a charity that promotes the use of free and open source software.</p> <p><u>VSSN Development</u> The VSSN website is an underdeveloped resource. I am happy to commit time and ideas to making it less so.</p> |
| <p>Macmillan, Rob</p> | <p>I am seeking election to the VSSN steering group as I would like to contribute time and knowledge with others in continuing to support the growth and development of the network.</p> <p>I have been actively involved in the voluntary sector for over 20 years, formally as a researcher, but also as a volunteer, paid member of staff, committee member and office holder. I have considerable experience of committee work for small community and voluntary organizations, including secretarial work and chairing meetings. I have served a previous period of office on the VSSN steering group where I was responsible for developing marketing and membership plans for the network.</p> <p>Both in my everyday work as a Research Fellow at the Third Sector Research Centre, and through my membership over the last two years of the Editorial Management Board of the Voluntary Sector Review, I have been involved in wider efforts to advance the field of voluntary sector studies. If elected I would aim to continue this work on the VSSN steering group.</p> |

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| <p>Rochester, Colin</p> | <p>I have served for the last three years as a member of the Steering Group and am seeking re-election. During this period I have acted as vice-chair of the group and taken responsibility for liaison with NCVO in planning and organizing the annual research conference. I have also edited the practice papers section of the Voluntary Sector Review.</p> <p>I have enjoyed being part of the Steering Group and hope to continue to serve for another three years.</p> |
| <p>Zimmeck, Meta</p> | <p>I trained as a social historian specialising in administrative history, and for the last twenty years I have worked as a social policy researcher and project manager of quantitative and qualitative research in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.</p> <p>My interests include volunteering; partnerships between government and the voluntary and community sector, including the Compact; funding; and effective programme delivery.</p> <p>If elected, I will bring to the Steering Group of VSSN an unusually broad range of experience and a commitment to represent members working as independent research consultants and researchers in organisations outside universities.</p> <p>I worked for the Home Office as head of the Voluntary and Community Research Section (portfolio of blue sky research, programme evaluations and policy briefings); for the London Housing Unit as homelessness policy and research officer; for Carol Goldstone Associates, a market research firm, as research manager (projects for the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, Charity Commission, Community Development Foundation, Department for Work and Pensions, National Audit Office, Office of Fair Trading and Social Research Association; for Volunteering England as policy strategist and head of Secretariat for the Commission on the Future of Volunteering; and as an independent consultant (projects for a wide variety of organisations including the Baring Foundation, Commission for the Compact, Cardiff University/Crisis/National Housing Federation, Finance Hub, Institute for Volunteering Research/Volunteering England, LB Newham, NCVO, and RSA). I am currently a partner in Practical Wisdom R2Z, a new social research consultancy.</p> |