

## VSSN SG Elections 2015

There are 3 vacancies for the **Steering Group of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network**. The following 5 VSSN members have put their names forward for election.

Name of Candidate	Supporting Statement
<p><b>Louis Carserides</b></p>	<p>I am a junior researcher at Practical Wisdom R2Z who has received a scholarship to study Social Policy (Research) at the London School of Economics and I would love the opportunity to help contribute to the VSSN Steering Group.</p> <p>Despite possessing less “experience” in the sector than the majority of my fellow members I believe I can still be an asset to VSSN when helping to forward the groups stated goals and aims. As well as youth and vigour (!) I will hope to contribute the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong computer skills – capable and confident with wordpress, social media and many other systems and sites</li> <li>• Contacts - currently studying alongside the future leaders of voluntary sector studies from all over the world including Colombia, Canada, Pakistan and in England - I will seek to help boost and broaden membership participation both cross-generationally and cross-culturally</li> <li>• Time (I’m a student!)</li> </ul> <p>Ultimately I hope my passion for the sector and my relevant skills will help contribute to the growth and development of VSSN during what will be a challenging yet highly enjoyable three years on the Steering Group. I would love to help broaden our membership base to include more people of a younger age and from all over the world in order to enhance our understanding of the UK voluntary sector through a globalised as well as nationalised perspective.</p>
	<p><b>Candidate Statements Continue</b></p>

<p><b>Chris Dayson</b></p>	<p>I am currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) where I have been researching the voluntary sector for the past 7 years. Since September 2015 I have also been Manager of the University's Centre for Voluntary Sector Research (CVSR), an interdisciplinary group of academic staff with an interest in the voluntary sector, taking over from the Centre's longstanding leader Prof. Gareth Morgan. My research interests lie in role of the voluntary and community sector in public service delivery, with a focus on services commissioned in the context public service transformation and the integration of health social care.</p> <p>I have actively engaged with VSSN since 2007 when I began working as a researcher in the voluntary sector. I presented to the New Researcher's Session of the Annual Conference in 2008 and have contributed to the main Conference proceedings on numerous occasions since then, including the co-ordination of a panel session in 2014. Furthermore, one of my first tasks as CVSR Manager is the internal organisation of a VSSN Day Seminar at SHU in May 2016.</p> <p>I am interested joining the VSSN SG for two key reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to support closer links between voluntary sector academics/researchers and policymakers/practitioners in the voluntary/public sectors</li> <li>• to support the development of new/early career researchers interested in the voluntary sector</li> </ul> <p>These are important features of my role in CRESR/CVSR and something I am interested in expanding on through a more formal role within VSSN.</p>
<p><b>Anjelica Finnegan</b></p>	<p>I have thoroughly enjoyed the last three years as a member of the VSSN Steering Group and would be delighted to extend my tenure. Specifically, I would welcome the opportunity to continue championing the work of early career researchers in the sector and developing the New Researchers' group which has gone from strength to strength.</p> <p>Specifically, I am keen to secure further funding to ensure that VSSN can continue to fund the new researcher stream at the annual conference and wider activities (such as the New Researcher Seminar hosted last April in collaboration with GMCVO &amp; Edgehill University) to strengthen the new researchers' network.</p> <p>I have performed a range of roles in the voluntary and higher education sectors with increasing responsibility at each step. These experiences have given me a strong background in voluntary sector research in both an academic and non-academic setting, and I am now at an exciting point in my career where I have moved into a</p> <p><b>Statement continues on next page</b></p>

	<p>more policy-focused role. As such, I believe that I am well placed to continue to support the network in developing high quality research seminars that also speak to a wider audience beyond academia as well as connecting our members to practitioners and people working in voluntary sector policy.</p> <p>I am a passionate advocate for research-led policy and practice and to this end I would be delighted to be a part of the team leading the VSSN.</p>
<p><b>Alexandra Sporidou</b></p>	<p>I wish to join the Board’s work in gaining knowledge in relation to, on the one hand, the impact of the pervasive neoliberal ideologies on VCS values, identity, and practice; and, on the other, VCS resistance to this trend both in the UK and Greece by assuming its role as a social movement for justice and social change. I have studied Women’s Studies at Masters level at Bradford University in 1993 and enrolled on the Public Sociology Master course at Nottingham Trent University in October 2015. I intend to promote collaboration between researchers and colleagues in the voluntary sector to explore its role in advocacy and as actor in social movement for change. I have established working relationships with wide range of leaders in the voluntary sector both in the UK and international including academics in Nottingham Trent, York and SOAS Universities. Based on this, I would be particularly interested in helping with the membership and new researcher network development. My work experience spans over 21years including 9 years in housing and homelessness in a large metropolitan local authority and 12 years in the voluntary and community sector in various roles from frontline practitioner to deputy chief executive on areas of work such as young people, refugees and violence against women and girls. My involvement in charity governance include positions of treasurer, chair and school governor, leading on partnership development. I am a passionate advocate for collaborative working in gaining knowledge and applying it to achieve social change.</p>
<p><b>Meta Zimmeck</b></p>	<p>I am currently treasurer of VSSN and, if elected, would be happy to continue in this post.</p> <p>I have had an eclectic career as a social policy researcher in independent consultancy, local government, central government, voluntary and community sector and private sector. I worked for the Home Office as head of the Voluntary and Community Research Section; 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 Charity Commission, Community Development Foundation, Department for Work and Pensions, National Audit Office, Office of Fair Trading and Social</p> <p><b>Statement continues on next page</b></p>

	<p>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 on projects for a wide variety of organisations including the Baring Foundation, Cardiff University for Crisis/National Housing Federation and Department of the Environment, Centre for Philanthropy and Charitable Giving (Cass Business School), Commission for the Compact, Finance Hub, Institute for Volunteering Research/Volunteering England, LB Newham, NCVO, RSA and Welsh Government. I am a partner in Practical Wisdom R2Z, a specialist research consultancy, and I am also chair of the Voluntary Action History Society.</p> <p>My interests include volunteering; partnerships between government and the voluntary and community sector, and effective programme delivery.</p> <p>If re-elected, I will continue to support VSSN’s activities with enthusiasm and represent members working mainly outside universities.</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>End</b></p>