

VSSN Steering Group elections 2018

This year there are **three** vacancies for the Steering Group.

The following VSSN members have put themselves forward for election.

<p>Chris Damm</p> <p>Sheffield Hallam University</p>	<p>I have greatly enjoyed spending the previous year as a member of the VSSN steering group. I have been actively involved with VSSN since my PhD, now completed two years ago, and I attend most conferences and events. As an Early Career Researcher I highly value having the VSSN community as a wider academic support network, and would love to continue on the steering group for a further term.</p> <p>I am currently a Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University. I work on a wide range of research projects on, and for, voluntary sector organisations. I primarily use quantitative methods, which brings a slightly different methodological background to the steering group. My individual research interests focus on service delivery, charity data and voluntary sector theory.</p> <p>As well as taking on my share of the general administration of the steering group, my work over the last year has centred on the website. This has included publishing updates and ensuring we have the right technical support in place. I'd like to continue in this area by increasing the amount of useful content on the site. This could include links to useful resources and signposting to existing centres, courses and research projects. I'd also like to develop the potential for interest groups, including a dedicated space for new researchers, as well as for quantitative and qualitative methods. Finally, I'd like to invest in more multi-media content for the site, including recorded presentations and other videos.</p>
<p>Chris Dayson</p> <p>Sheffield Hallam University</p>	<p>I am currently Principal Research Fellow at CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University (since 2008) where I lead a range of projects exploring the role and experiences of local voluntary organisations. In this role I work closely with practitioners and policy makers to promote a better understanding of the benefits a strong and vibrant local voluntary sector brings to community and civic life.</p> <p>I have been a member of VSSN since 2007 and part of the VSSN Steering Group since 2015. During my first term I have been one of two VSSN representatives on the organising committee of the annual 'Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference', an event I first attended as a New Researcher in 2007. During this term I have also been involved in the journal Voluntary Sector Review, initially as the VSSN Editorial Board representative and since 2017 as Practice Editor.</p>

	<p>If re-elected to the Steering Group I hope to continue to play a key role organising the annual research conference, in particular using my experience from the past three years to support the transition to a new operating model for the conference from 2019 onwards. I also hope to use my position on the Steering Group as a platform for promoting the Practice Section of Voluntary Sector Review, attending conferences and seminars to identify possible articles for the journal. This includes providing support to VSSN members, in particular those who are New Researchers, to develop proposals for submission to the journal.</p>
<p>Jon Dean Sheffield Hallam University</p>	<p>For the past year I have served as the external relations and membership and marketing lead for the Voluntary Sector Studies Network, alongside sitting on the Editorial Management Board for Voluntary Sector Review, representing VSSN. I would very much like to continue in these roles, serving the interests of voluntary sector research and researchers. As membership lead, this has meant working with our Executive Officer to assess VSSN's current membership services and subscription rates, and putting together the newsletter, alongside helping to run VSSN's social media. I was very pleased to be a representative of VSSN at the recent 'Building Bridges' event at NCVO, which drew together reflections from researchers and practitioners about developing better relationships and avenues for research to affect practice. My thoughts about this event are available on the VSSN website. I have been attending the VSSN annual conference consistently since 2010, delivering papers, chairing sessions, and giving advice to the New Researcher's Session, and have always found it a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. Working to help continue this atmosphere has been a highlight of the last year's work on the Steering Group, and I wish to continue this, and ensure the smooth running of the network. In my own work, I conduct original qualitative research on a variety of voluntary sector issues - from inequalities in youth volunteering, to the representation of homelessness in charity advertising, to how people experience fundraising on social media - and so have a stake in the success of VSSN.</p>