

NCIS LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS 2024-2026

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Officers

President – Linda Baines



I am an independent researcher, and a visiting researcher at Southampton Business School (SBS), University of Southampton (on the south coast of England) where I completed my PhD in 2016. I now undertake research, and supervise Masters students there. My research interests include inclusive entrepreneurship, digital innovation, and the not-for-profit sector. In a previous life, I worked as a senior manager in the government sector, most recently in the research councils (which fund postgraduate research in the UK and run science and technology facilities). I have substantive experience of commercial management, strategic and business development, and negotiating and managing large complex contracts and agreements to commercialise intellectual property. This kickstarted my fascination with research, wanting to explore and understand the issues I was encountering. Obtaining my PhD confirmed that research is where I belong. I am an experienced chair, trustee / board member and mentor in UK not-for-profit organisations which has given me considerable experience of leadership, governance and developing effective teams in the not-for-profit sector.

Statement of Candidacy

I have been President of NCIS since January 2023, previously Vice President in 2022, after joining the Board in 2020. It has been a joy to have such an opportunity to contribute to NCIS and to work with such supportive colleagues. With increasing academic precarity, more researchers are turning to NCIS for a home, a community and an affiliation. If I were fortunate to be re-elected President, I would continue to work closely with the Executive Committee and Board to further develop the firm foundation that NCIS has established as a supportive and global collaborative community of like-minded independent scholars. We will continue to strengthen and update NCIS's digital infrastructure, ways of working and engaging with members. We are exploring how we can offer more opportunities for members to network, share and develop their research ideas and to develop their research skills further. We will continue to review the range of research grants that we offer NCIS members.

We are open to new ideas and approaches both to what NCIS can offer and what we can do. As well as my skills and experience, I bring my commitment, curiosity, and creativity and passion to NCIS.

Treasurer – Kevin Waitkuweit



Kevin Hans Waitkuweit is currently the Interim Treasurer of NCIS. In addition to volunteering for the organization as a member of the communications committee, Mr. Waitkuweit was a former Board Member of NCIS, prior to his current role as Interim Treasurer. As a member of NCIS since 2020, Mr.

Waitkuweit is also an adjunct faculty member at Southwestern Michigan College and currently a graduate student in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He holds a masters degree in Sociology, a bachelors degree in History with minors in Chicana/o Studies, Disability Studies, and Public Affairs, as well as associates degrees in French and Mathematics. He has presented research on panels at the American Sociological Association in 2018, 2019 and 2022, 2023 and 20224 and his most recent research was published in the 15th volume of Research in Social Science and Disability. For this election, Mr. Waitkuweit appreciates the opportunity to stand in the election for the role of Treasurer. Mr. Waitkuweit previous worked as a program manager administering multi-million dollar grants at the University of Notre Dame. As such, with this experience, he submits is candidacy for Treasurer of NCIS and aspires to maintain the financial solvency of the coalition.

Statement of Candidacy

Kevin Hans Waitkuweit is currently the Interim Treasurer of NCIS. In addition to volunteering for the organization as a member of the communications committee, Mr. Waitkuweit was a former Board Member of NCIS, prior to his current role as Interim Treasurer. As a member of NCIS since 2020, Mr. Waitkuweit is also an adjunct faculty member at Southwestern Michigan College and currently a graduate student in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He holds a masters degree in Sociology, a bachelors degree in History with minors in Chicana/o Studies, Disability Studies, and Public Affairs, as well as associates degrees in French and Mathematics. He has presented research on panels at the American Sociological Association in 2018, 2019 and 2022, 2023 and 2024 and his most recent research was published in the 15th volume of Research in Social Science and Disability. For this

election, Mr. Waitkuweit appreciates the opportunity to stand in the election for the role of Treasurer. Mr. Waitkuweit previously worked as a program manager administering multi-million dollar grants at the University of Notre Dame. As such, with this experience, he submits his candidacy for Treasurer of NCIS and aspires to maintain the financial solvency of the coalition.

Membership Secretary – Cindy Bylander



Cindy Bylander is an American musicologist. A recipient of the Polish Composers' Union's Honorary Award and Poland's Gloria Artis Bronze medal, her research focuses on twentieth-century Polish musical life. Her most recent book project, *Engaging Cultural Ideologies: Classical Composers and Musical Life in Poland 1918–1956* was published by Academic Studies Press in 2022. Her previous publications include Krzysztof Penderecki: A Bio-Bibliography and articles in *Polski Rocznik Muzykologiczny*, *Czarny pokój i inne pokoje: Zbiór tekstów o SEPR*, *Polish Review*, *Musical Quarterly*, *Musicology Today*, and *Polish Music Since 1945*. She also served as the translation editor for the 2021 book *From Poland with Music: 100 Years of Composers Abroad (1918-2018)*. She received her Ph.D. at The Ohio State University.

Statement of Candidacy

I have been the NCIS Membership Officer since July 2022. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues at NCIS and interacting with current members and recent applicants. I would like to continue in this position for a second term.

Communications Officer – Amanda Haste



A Franco-British independent scholar, I spent 30 years as a professional musician before gaining a PhD in musicology. I was adjunct faculty at Aix-Marseille University (2015-2022) and I am a freelance translator (FR-EN) specializing in academic texts, and transcribing/translating historical manuscript sources. An active independent scholar, invited lecturer and keynote speaker, I have peer reviewed for several journals. I have published widely in specialist journals, and my books include *Music and Identity in Twentieth-Century Monasticism*

(Routledge, 2023) and (co-edited with Linda Baines) the *NCIS Guide for Independent Scholars* (NCIS, 2024). I joined NCIS in 2012, since when NCIS has been a major factor in my development as an independent scholar and, despite my adjunct post, I always use NCIS as my affiliation when submitting conference papers, journal articles and book chapters. I have been active in NCIS since joining the Board in 2014, becoming Vice-President and later Acting President in 2015, and serving as President from 2016 to 2022. I also serve as Humanities Editor for our peer-reviewed OA journal *The Independent Scholar*, and since 2022 have been serving as Communications Officer.

Statement of Candidacy

Having termed out after seven years as President of NCIS in 2022, I have continued to serve NCIS as Communications Officer, an ex-officio officer role. We have an excellent Communications Committee, and through their efforts have established a vibrant online community through Twitter/X, LinkedIn, and Facebook (almost 2,000 followers in 88 countries) as well as regular direct communication with the membership through regular email bulletins. Over the past two years we have also developed our digital outreach through free online webinars and podcasts, and for the past year have been developing a new NCIS website. I would be honoured to continue in this role, coordinating the Communications Committee, drafting the member mailings, posting Member News items, keeping our website content updated, and generally meeting the communications needs of our organization.

Board of Directors

There are 5 candidates for the Board, and you may vote for as many as you like.

Kathryn Burrows – Board candidate



Kate is a sociologist by training and is interested in medical and mental health sociology. She has published in a wide variety of sub-disciplines in sociology, including papers about dating and social meme theory, gender and cancer, mental health, culturally relevant teaching, and the history of medical technology. Her most recent publication appears in the journal *Culture, Medicine, and Society*. She is currently working on a book about AI and digital surveillance technologies and persons with psychotic disorders. In 2024, she published an edited volume about medical technology and society. She owns a small consulting business that focuses on helping early-career scholars who are either finishing their dissertations and their first publishing experience, or working with newly appointed assistant professors who are engaging in their first projects after their dissertation. She is the editor of a volume about medical technology and society. She also was a contributor to an open-access textbook series for undergraduates, and teaches sociology classes for undergraduates and graduate students, with courses in mental health sociology, gender, disability, and classical and mid-century sociological theory. She attended a small liberal arts college in Portland, Oregon for her undergraduate degree, and did all her requirements for her PhD at Rutgers University in New Jersey, and finished her dissertation at Portland State University in Portland.

Statement of Candidacy

I have served on the board of NCIS for two years, mostly in the capacity of Partner Groups/Affiliates liaison. In this role, I coordinate our partner groups across the world, help them advertise their events, and host 4 annual meetings. My work with the PGs has been rewarding and I would like to continue working with them. I am an active board member and frequently volunteer to take on new projects, such as my role on the events committee and my earlier role as Early Career Scholar liaison. In the last 2 years, I have created and hosted two NCIS-wide seminars, including the 2023 seminar about getting into independent scholarship as an Early Career Researcher, and my 2024 seminar about tools used by independent scholars. I feel that my energy and passion for independent scholarship make me an ideal candidate for the board of directors.

Paul Parobek – Board candidate



I am a new member of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, and currently a doctoral candidate with international educational experience. I am interested in running for an executive position as I have a plethora of experience in research, peer review, and sitting on executive boards in both appointed and elected positions. I have had several pieces of my research published in the form of article blogs and a poster. I have acted as a peer reviewer for two international journals and for the local Free Speech essay contest. My executive experience includes serving on the PSI Positive Peer Leadership group from 1997-1998, the Six Flags Millennium Research Group in 2000, the Leebrick Hall Council in the 2002-2003 academic year, and more recently, as the Executive Secretary for the Community Emergency Response Team since 2020. I am active in my local community and have been a member of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs since 2009 and I regularly attend their Foreign Policy Forums with leaders. I also serve my local community in the local Community Emergency Response Team, which I have been a member of since 2007. We regularly assist first responders during emergencies. I look forward to engaging with the board, the executive committee, and the wider membership to find new ways to engage with the members and to identify new ways to highlight the research by independent scholars.

Statement of Candidacy

I am running for a seat on the board. I believe that my previous board experience in various elected and appointed positions has been an asset and gives me an advantage in knowing how boards operate. I consider myself to be a good team player and am able to work collaboratively. I would like to work with the board, executive committee, and the membership to identify new ways to highlight the research done by independent scholars such as featuring a "scholar of the month" where a scholar is profiled on the homepage and in the newsletter, and poster competitions. I believe that research conducted by independent scholars often goes unnoticed and I would like to help our community to learn how to protect and commercialize their intellectual property, by guest speakers and virtual research fairs. Finally, I would also like to help expand the existing digital resources for our community such as upskilling webinars and virtual "meet-and-greet" gatherings.

Annie Rehill – Board candidate



A U.S.-based independent scholar and writer (Ph.D. Modern French Studies, MS Library Science, MFA Creative Nonfiction), for income I have worked as an editor and taught as an adjunct. For inspiration, I have drawn from both research and personal experience. On the academic front, my chapter "Paulette Dubé's Novels *Talon* and *Autant: Braiding together Western Canadian Cultures Using*

Surrealism and Magical Realism" is currently being submitted to academic presses as part of the book project *Beyond Munro and Atwood: Other Voices in Canadian Women's Writing*, edited by Canadian professors Cristina Ruiz Serrano and Suzanne Hayman. In terms of creative nonfiction and the personal essay, my most recent publications are "My Inner Ms. Natural Fought with the Mirror; The Mirror Won," *Next Avenue*, January 11, 2024, <https://www.nextavenue.org/my-inner-natural-mirror-won/>; and "Telling an Emotional Truth," *The Writer's Center Magazine*, winter-spring 2024, 37-38, https://writer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/TWC-Magazine_WISP2024_final_web.pdf.

Statement of Candidacy

If re-elected for a third and final term on the NCIS board, I envision serving as one of the NCIS board members who commit to help with support maintenance of the new NCIS website. I served on the committee that selected and recommended to the board the new web-development company, Kurieta. The work involved comparing and vetting other candidate companies, planning and editing for the new website, and assisting with the technology's design and implementation. Once the website is completed, tested, and ready to go live, Kurieta will train several members of this same committee to help maintain the website in terms of updates to the wording and elementary technology updates. Kurieta will handle, on an ongoing basis, more sophisticated aspects such as advanced security, and will remain available for consultation and assistance as needed.

Helen Ross – Board candidate



I am a special needs teacher and former SENCO, working as an independent educational research consultant, specialist assessor and SEND expert. I have joined the Board of 1 in 10, a UK-based not-for-profit lobbying for better training for teachers supporting young people with dyslexia. I am also Chair of the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association and have just finished my position of 3.5 years as Co-Vice-Chair of the British Dyslexia Association where I have recruited two

CEOs, supported accreditation processes and supported their Chair. I am a leading voice, working globally to raise awareness of dyslexia, specific learning difficulties and SEND. I have consulted for the British Dyslexia Association, The Committee for Science and Technology (UK Government), and UK-bodies. I work internationally with third sector and commercial organisations on evaluation, consultancy and resource development. I am currently PI on a project with Liverpool John Moores University about dyslexia and wellbeing in primary schools.

Statement of Candidacy

I bring a breadth of governance experience with me to the Board of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars. I have been the Events Officer of NCIS since 2022 and have organised a range of events in that position. It has been an utter privilege and I would relish the opportunity to continue in the role and work with the Board to keep running a diverse and challenging range of events. I have worked internationally as scholar and researcher, developing my international roles substantially since starting in my position on the NCIS Board, which I feel gives me great flexibility when working with others from a wide range of backgrounds. I have spent extended periods of time in several countries outside of the UK so I have had the opportunity to develop the requisite skills for working with multinational teams. I am fortunate enough to speak French, Spanish and German well, and have a working knowledge of Italian. As an independent scholar, I bring my diverse experiences of the world of education (as a teacher), private enterprise (as a consultant) and the third sector (as a volunteer and researcher), and my passion for robust, and well-grounded scholarship that links to real-world pragmatism to improve the lives of those around us. I have enjoyed being on the NCIS Board and would love to continue!

Shelby Shapiro – Board candidate



San Francisco-born, I grew up on Guam. Returning after earning my BA in Anthropology, I worked for 19 years in a law office writing trial memoranda and appeal briefs, doing land title examinations, pursuing photography part-time, while hosting a Jazz & Blues program on various AM and FM stations for 9 years. Self-taught in Yiddish, I went back to school when I came to the Washington metro area, earning an MA and PhD in American Studies studying the Yiddish press and acculturation of women immigrants. In 2024, Palgrave Macmillan published the book based on my dissertation, *Words to the Wives: The Yiddish Press, Immigrant Women and Jewish-American Identity*. I am currently working on a second book, with the working title of *The Great, the Near-Great & the Obscure: A Reader's Lexicon*. A long-term project is the translation of Rudolf Rocker's *Di yugnt fun a rebel* (*The Youth of a Rebel*) from Yiddish to English.

I am the Associate Editor for Connecticut Public Records, Vol. XXII; a copy editor for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.; and a Yiddish-to-English translator. I served as editor for the newsletter and later the small magazine of Yiddish of Greater Washington for more than a decade, continue to serve on its Board, as well as that of Operation Understanding-DC.

Statement of Candidacy

I have served as General Editor for the NCIS open-access, peer-reviewed journal *The Independent Scholar* since its inception in 2015, and hope to continue in this role. I am keen to see our organization and *The Independent Scholar* (now in its 11th issue) continue to grow and flourish.