

The Independent Scholar

The Newsletter of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars

August 2011

Volume 24, Issue 2

H I G H L I G H T S

New Member Benefits

If you've been wondering what the NCIS Board of Directors has done for us lately, the answer is: a lot!
Pages 2 and 5

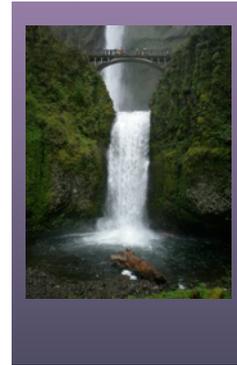


November Election

NCIS is holding elections for Board of Directors Members in November. See what positions are open, and consider throwing your hat in the ring.
Page 6

Call for Submissions

TIS needs members' submissions to round out its content. Add your written voice to others' in TIS and give us something new about which to think.
Page 3



Volunteer! Please!

NCIS depends on its volunteers. Sign up for a committee to have the opportunity to shape NCIS' future.
Page 5

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President's Letter

Dear Members,

It has been a tremendously busy year for the board of directors, but I hope you agree with me when I say that it has been well worth it for our organization. In the January issue of *TIS*, we posted a survey that many of you elected to complete. You spoke and we listened!

You asked us to reintroduce our membership cards and we have. If you have not received your new card yet, it will be there shortly. Mailing began August 22. These new cards will serve as proof of your continued membership in our professional organization and may assist you in gaining access to resources necessary for your research. The cards also have your expiration date listed, a handy reminder of when it is time to renew.

You asked us to bring back the letters of introduction and we have. If you need one, just let our membership committee know at least three weeks before you need the letter and we will send it to you or to the organization of your choice at no cost.

You asked us about having business cards that showed your affiliation with NCIS. You may now order these cards and, if you like, an engraved steel carrying case to go with them. The prices are competitive and the cards look great. I have ordered two sets — one showing my role as president of NCIS and one for my personal use. I have included one of my business cards in the mailing that contains your membership card so you can see the quality for yourself.

You asked us for access to grant writing assistance and grants databases and this is very close to becoming a reality. While I had hoped we could work out a minor technical issue by the end of this month, it is going to take just a

little bit longer. This benefit should be available to you within the next few weeks.

And, speaking of grants, we are going to be announcing a major new grant program available only to NCIS members in the very near future. The money is already in the bank and we are finalizing the announcement and promotion plans. I will e-mail everyone as soon as the announcement is made. These awards are in addition to the four travel bursaries and the Eisenstein-DeLacy Prize for best-published article by a member.

As you think about all that we have accomplished, I would also like you to think about getting involved and helping to keep the organization growing and moving forward. We have several openings on the Board of Directors as well as openings for Treasurer and Secretary. The committees need member volunteers. Far as we have gone, there is still a long way to go. Elections will be held online during the first two weeks in November. Anyone interested needs to contact the nominating committee by October 23 (*see p. 7*).

Finally, I want to thank our board of directors, all our volunteers, and our new *TIS* editor, for helping make this very productive year possible. All the new benefits, improvements, and achievements have truly been a group effort. None of this would have been possible without them.

Thanks to all of you for choosing to be part of our organization. We certainly would not have been able to do any of this without you!

Wishing all of you the best as you pursue your Independent Scholarship,

Dr. Lisa Perry
President, NCIS

Letter from the Editor

This issue marks the resumption of quarterly appearances of *The Independent Scholar*. I am honoured that the Board has appointed me as the editor of newsletter for the next year. In addition to a new editor, *TIS* now has an advisory committee who will help guide and develop the newsletter. Thanks to NCIS President Lisa Perry, Board member and committee lead Tricia Cusack (who brought us the lovely January *TIS*), Ann Lee Morgan, Gayle Sulik, and returning Book Review editor David Sonenschein for coming together to comprise this team. Over the next year, we'll be working to improve and evolve *TIS* as well as to keep everyone apprised of NCIS news. Please bear with me for a few issues as I work out the layout and design.

The most exciting change, however, is that *The Independent Scholar* is now an open access e-publication. No longer will we need to print out clandestine copies to smuggle to non-NCIS members. Now we need only refer them to our soon-to-be revamped web site, and they can read not only the current issue, but back issues as early as March 2007 as well. This new accessibility will give NCIS and its members an additional entry into greater scholarly conversations and increase awareness of NCIS and its work to support independent scholars. Please spread the word about *The Independent Scholar's* availability, and consider submitting an article or essay to *TIS*.

Ruth Feiertag
 Editor, *The Independent Scholar*
wardemote@comcast.net



Call for Submissions

All members of NCIS are encouraged to send in submissions for consideration to *The Independent Scholar*. *TIS* publishes members' essays or articles on issues that relate to the pursuit of independent scholarship, as well as scholarly work that will appeal to a wide readership. The newsletter is now accessible to all, so work that appears in *TIS* will get a broader exposure than when the newsletter was available only to NCIS members. I hope that many of our members will find this potentially greater audience an added enticement to submit; certainly the more we have to offer readers the more readers we'll attract!

Please let me know about new publications, presentations, and other scholarly accomplishments so I can list them in our member news section. *TIS* also accepts for consideration announcements of appropriate competitions, meetings, awards, events, conferences, calls for papers, or publications.

NCIS members are working on myriad fascinating projects. Please share! Send submissions to TIS@ncis.org. Because *TIS* is just resuming regular publication, the submissions deadline for the November issue will be 1 October, 2011; for the February 2012 issue, 15 November, 2011. If you have nothing presently to submit, but are interested in writing, send an e-mail with your name, contact information, and either a c.v. or a description of your research areas. Please see the submissions guidelines at the end of the newsletter for more information.

From the Book Review Editor

Have a New Book Coming Out?

First of all, congratulations!

Second, you can get your book reviewed in *The Independent Scholar*. Arrange for your publisher to send a review copy to me, David Sonenschein, NCIS Book Review Editor, 1017 Ripley Ave., San Antonio, TX 78212-2708. I'll petition several qualified NCIS scholars to take on the review; failing that, I'll get a descriptive review in regardless. Authors of reviewed books are responsible for getting copies of the reviews back to their publishers.

If you've self-published, send me a copy of your work along with contact and purchase information, and, contrary to the practices of many professional organizations, we will review it. And also unlike many other organizations, we will also review text-based creative works by NCIS Members. We're an especially creative bunch, so for other works, such as visual arts, dance, music, and so on, send us a link to wherever your work is on line.

We can also consider reviewing books by independent scholars who are not NCIS Members. If you spot one you particularly like, let me know and I'll try to get a review copy. And let me know too if you'd like to review a particular book yourself.

Reviews may be of any length, from short descriptive ones to longer review essays. Each case is negotiated between the book review editor and the reviewer. For examples, see pages 7ff of the 2009 Summer (June) issue of *TIS*.

As with other submissions, all professional protocols for form and content apply. If criticism is to be expressed, scholarly conduct is expected. Please be patient about seeing a review of your book appear in the newsletter. Sometimes it takes a while to find a reviewer, another while for the reviewer to read the book and write a thoughtful review, and *TIS* is but a quarterly. And, of course, all authors of reviewed books are encouraged to reply to reviews to add comments or correct misconceptions.

I'll be (slowly) working up a database of NCIS Members' research areas, but if you'd like to be considered as a reviewer for your areas of expertise, send me an e-mail and we'll add you to the pot.

David Sonenschein

dsncis@gmail.com



Benefits and Changes

As Dr. Perry observes in her letter above, the members on the Board of Directors have been assiduously applying themselves to enhance the benefits of NCIS membership. Besides the new or re-instated benefits Dr. Perry describes, NCIS members may now have an ncis.org e-mail address for a mere \$5.00 to cover administration costs. Having an ncis.org address will give members' e-mails a professional appearance and will allow members to separate their personal and professional e-mail correspondences. Members can get access to their NCIS e-mail through an on-line web-mail interface.

The Board continues to pursue the possibility of arranging access to JSTOR and other research databases for NCIS members. And see the Volunteer section following for information about a project that will identify major public libraries with database

privileges for members.

NCIS has also jump-started its social media bandwagon with revived pages on Facebook and 138 followers on Twitter (so far). The NCIS presence on these sites was dormant for a time, but volunteers are now updating them regularly. Check out the announcement below for a message from the folks who have made these conversations possible.

These Member Benefits are additions to already existing ones such as Member Web Pages, eligibility for exclusive NCIS Awards and Grants, access to lists of resources, and the legitimation and status that belonging to a recognized scholarly organization confers. Those who wish to get in touch with the Board to convey questions, suggestions, or well-deserved thanks can find contact information at the end of the newsletter.

Join NCIS on Facebook and Twitter

For news, opportunities, and events of interest to independent scholars, follow NCIS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Members are encouraged to submit notices such as scholarly activities and professional honors. Send announcements to ncistwitter@gmail.com.

Volunteers

There are plenty of openings for Committee Volunteers. Those interested in serving on a committee will find a variety of means to work to maintain, improve, and promote NCIS. Each of the following committees provides the NCIS president with monthly reports detailing its progress and activities. At present, NCIS has five committees:

1. The MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE is responsible for welcoming new members, and for sending out renewal notices to current members a month before their membership expires. Committee members review applicants' c.v.s to determine whether they are eligible for membership in NCIS, notify rejected applicants that they have not been accepted, and check in with lapsed members to find out whether they have merely forgotten to send in their dues or intended to leave our ranks. The membership committee also responds to general e-mails or forwards those e-mails to the appropriate person. The maintenance of NCIS' social media networks and other recruitment efforts also falls to the Membership Committee. This committee needs a chair as well other volunteers. Send an e-mail to membership@ncis.org if you are willing to lend a hand here.

2. The BENEFITS COMMITTEE: The members of this group work on database access, mail membership cards to all those who belong to NCIS, provide letters of introduction for members who request them, look to discover other potential new benefits, and provide updates to the editor of *TIS* to include in the newsletter. The committee also sends updates to the web master, ensures that links on the NCIS web site work properly, and assesses other technology needs of our organization. Committee Chair Guillermina Walas can be contacted through the committee's e-mail: benefits@ncis.org.

3. The AFFILIATES COMMITTEE members maintain contact with all NCIS affiliates and look into establishing other productive affiliations for NCIS. They send out renewal notices to affiliates a month before their affiliation expires, and provide news from our affiliates to be included in *The Independent Scholar*. Get in touch with this committee through this address: affiliates@ncis.org.

4. The INTEREST GROUP Committee is presently dormant, but look for news about this committee in the November *TIS*.

5. The *TIS* ADVISORY COMMITTEE collaborates with the newsletter editor to establish policies and guidelines, to determine the development of *TIS*, to solicit and read submissions, and to provide the editor with other support as needed. Members may also be called on to write articles for *TIS*, to produce the newsletter if necessary, and/or to fill the post of editor should it become vacant. Interested? Send a note to TIS@ncis.org to let Chair Tricia Cusack know that you're intrigued.

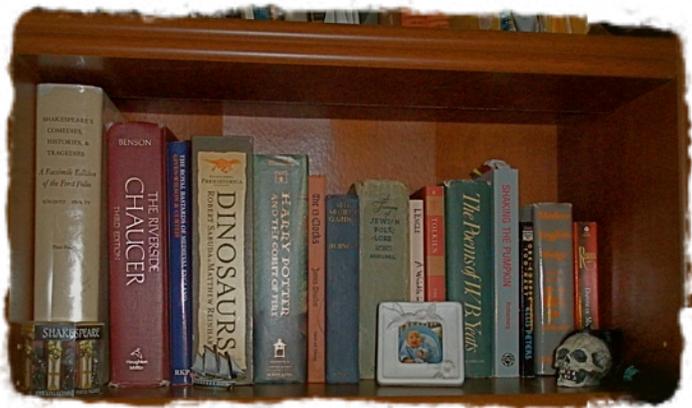
All of these committees are staffed by member volunteers who share their expertise, skills, and time for the benefit of NCIS and its members, and almost all these groups would welcome additional assistance.

NCIS would not exist without its volunteer Board, Officers, and Committee Members. If this organization is important to you, if you would like to share your skills and expertise or gain new experience, if you want to express gratitude for what NCIS does for you, or if you'd like to get to know other NCIS members, volunteering is an excellent way to achieve any of these goals. Thanks to all who choose to step up and donate their time!



A Special Request from Piri Halasz:

The Benefits Committee is compiling a list of selected public libraries across the United States to be posted on the NCIS website as a complement to the list of university libraries already there. Piri would love volunteers to help her complete entries already chosen, principally by finding out each library's policies regarding on-site use of facilities, borrowing, and remote access of databases. Some of this information will be posted on libraries' websites; for what isn't, it will be necessary to contact libraries by phone or e-mail. Volunteers can take on as few or as many libraries as they want. If interested, please contact Piri directly at piri@mindspring.com.



**“Knowing I loved my books, he furnish'd me
From mine own library with volumes that
I prize above my dukedom.”**

— William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, ll.278-280

Call for Candidates for Office

If you would like to have an impact even more significant than that of committee work, please consider running in the November election, and if elected, serving as an officer or a board member. For NCIS to continue to flourish and improve its efficacy, it needs the active participation of its members!

Six positions will be on the ballot this Fall: Treasurer, Secretary, and four Board Members. The basic duties of the Treasurer are clearly defined by law, and include (though are not limited to) maintaining records of the organization's accounts, making those accounts available to the Board and to members, preparing an annual report, and taking on other responsibilities as they arise. The Treasurer must have experience with non-profit accounting, knowledge of taxation laws, and an understanding of appropriate investing for non-profits.

The Secretary takes minutes at all Board meetings, sends copies to the Board members, and keeps a permanent record of those minutes as well as of contracts and other agreements. The Secretary may also be asked to help with other tasks should he or she be willing to take them on. Some of these tasks may include mailing out membership cards or placing on-line orders for the new members' business cards.

All Board members must be current members and are required to attend monthly (via Skype) Board meetings. They are also expected to serve as volunteers on committees, and to provide the President with an annual summary of their service to NCIS.

If you are interested in serving as an Officer or Board Member, please contact NCIS President Lisa Perry at lpncis@gmail.com. Please put “Elections” in the subject line. She'll be very happy to hear from you.

Call for Authors

We are inviting academic editorial contributors to *Cultural Sociology of Divorce: An Encyclopedia*, a 3-volume library reference to be published in 2013 by SAGE Publications.

While the formal definition of divorce may be fairly concise and straightforward (the legal termination of a marital union, dissolving the bonds of matrimony between parties), the effects are anything but, particularly when children and other family members are involved. The Americans for Divorce Reform estimates that "probably, 40 or possibly even 50 percent of marriages will end in divorce if current trends continue." And outside the United States, there are markedly increased divorce rates across developed countries-divorce and its effects are a significant social factor in our culture and others. In fact, it might be said that a whole "divorce industry" has been constructed, with divorce lawyers and mediators, family counselors, support groups, etc. As King Henry VIII's divorces showed, divorce has not always been easy or accepted. In some countries, divorce is not permitted and even in Europe, countries such as Spain, Italy, Portugal, and the Republic of Ireland only legalized divorce in the latter quarter of the twentieth century. This multi-disciplinary encyclopedia covers curricular subjects around the world ranging from marriage and the family to anthropology, social and legal history, developmental and clinical psychology, and religion. Three volumes, comprised of over 500 articles, illuminate what has become a culture of divorce and its impact on society.

This comprehensive project will be marketed to academic and public libraries as a print and digital product available to students via the library's electronic services. We are now making assignments with a deadline for submissions of November 17, 2011.

Each article, ranging from 900 to 4000 words, is signed by the contributor. The General Editor of the encyclopedia is Robert E. Emery, Ph.D., University of Virginia, who will review all the articles for editorial content and academic consistency.

If you are interested in contributing to the encyclopedia, it can be a notable publication addition to your CV/resume and broaden your publishing credits. Payment for the articles are honoraria that range from a \$50 book credit from Sage Publications for article submissions up to 1,000 words up to a free copy of the encyclopedia for contributions totaling greater than 10,000 words. More than this, your involvement can help assure that credible and detailed data, descriptions, and analysis are available to students of divorce issues.

For the country and US state articles we are looking for a historic overview of divorce, laws, demographics and statistics, with a primary focus on the effect of divorce on families, culture and society within the region.

If you would like to contribute to building a truly outstanding reference with *Cultural Sociology of Divorce: An Encyclopedia*, please contact me by the e-mail information below. Please provide a brief summary of your background in divorce issues.

Lisbeth Roger
 Author Manager
 Golson Media
lisbeth@golsonmedia.com



Member Papers and Presentations

Dukas, Neil

Awards:

Honorable Mention (for Excellence in Hawaiian Culture), 2011 Ka Palapala Po'okela Awards for *The Battle of Nu'uaniu 1795: An Illustrated Pocket Guide to the O'ahu Battlefield*. Mutual Publishing, LLC, 2010. ISBN: 978-1566479226.

(<http://www.battleofnuuanu.net/>)

Nominated for the Compton Crook Award for best new novel in the field of sci-fi fantasy, *The Spanish Gatekeeper*. Kaladar Books, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-9831929-0-9.

<http://www.thespanishgatekeeper.com/>.

Sulik, Gayle

Article:

"Our Diagnoses Ourselves': The Rise of the Technoscientific Illness Identity" in *Sociology Compass* 5/6 (2011): 463–477.

Tobin, Joan

Article:

"Are Women Missing in Literary Reviews?" in *On The Issues Magazine*, Winter 2011

(www.ontheissuesmagazine.com). The article is accessible directly at

www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/cafe2/article/141.



"All *mankinde* is of one *Author*, and is one *volume*; when one Man dies, one *Chapter* is not *torne* out of the *booke*, but *translated* into a better *language*; and his hand shall binde up all our scattered leaves againe, for that *Librarie* where every *booke* shall lie open to one another" (John Donne)

Leona Rittner, long-time NCIS member, d. August 2010.



The Independent Scholar

The Newsletter of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars

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The Independent Scholar is published quarterly by the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS). NCIS is a nonprofit organization founded to improve the standing of independent scholars. Our website is www.ncis.org.

Send comments and concerns to

Ruth Feiertag, TIS Editor: wardemote@comcast.net,

The TIS Advisory Committee: TIS@ncis.org, or

Lisa Perry, NCIS President: lpncis@gmail.com.

NCIS works to facilitate the interaction of independent scholars with libraries, research facilities, funding sources, and professional organizations.

Submission Guidelines:

The *TIS* editor welcomes NCIS members' original scholarly essays as well as other contributions on subjects relevant to our members whose wide-ranging research spans the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Members are also encouraged to send in announcements of their publications, presentations, and other scholarly accomplishments. *TIS* also accepts for consideration news of appropriate competitions, meetings, awards, events, conferences, calls for papers, or publications.

Submissions should be written with clarity and grace and must conform to pertinent, accepted citation and style guidelines. Authors should adhere to the rules of English grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Preferred length for submissions is no more than 2,000 words. All contributions must be submitted electronically as a Word file (.doc or .docx), a Rich Text Format file (.rtf), or in another MS Word-compatible configuration. Please use as little formatting as possible — footnotes and endnotes are acceptable, but please do not include page numbers or use non-standard fonts.

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The editor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to manuscripts for clarity and consistency. Substantive changes and revisions will be the responsibility of the authors. The editor and *The Independent Scholar* assume no responsibility for contributors' errors. Opinions expressed in items published in *TIS* reflect those of their authors and are not necessarily those of the editor, the NCIS board, or the general membership of NCIS.

Please send manuscripts and questions to the editor, Ruth Feiertag, at TIS@ncis.org, and use "TIS Submission" for the Subject line.

Send membership inquiries, subscription orders, and address changes to ncismembercom@gmail.com, or visit the NCIS website: <http://www.ncis.org/>. A copy of the applications for full and associate memberships are available on the membership page, at http://www.ncis.org/join_ncis/index.asp.

