

As candidate for Chair of BIEN, along with Rubén lo Vuolo as Vice Chair, I stand for strengthening BIEN's critical profile and reputation as a broad church of researchers, civic organisations, and policy-makers dedicated to public enlightenment. Having placed BIEN on a sound legal footing, the time is ripe for BIEN to forefront the expertise and practical knowledge assembled in BIEN to establish a major presence in the global debate.

I am a long-term advocate of improving economic security structures, cooperative institutions, and social equality. My research has been dedicated to explore the links between security, well-being and senses of freedom historically and contemporaneously. Growing up in Copenhagen, I worked in several contingent jobs, became a volunteer abroad with Danish workers' organisations, went to night school and eventually became a political economist specializing in the ethics of development. I have seen the importance of public action for social transformation first hand. Growing up in a poor missionary hamlet in Jutland, my 11 aunts and uncles left home at age 12 to serve on landed estates. The emerging welfare state gave them independent occupations. At a time of growing social division, I see in basic income a strengthening of the rights-based tradition, and an opportunity to ask fresh questions about the substance of social justice. I have been a critical student of the neo-liberal competition model over many years. Recently I have taken a stand against the benefit sanctions policies linked with it.

I have been active in BIEN since 2004. I was inspired to join by Senator Eduardo Suplicy, when doing research in Brazil. Since elected chair I have chartered BIEN, reformed the electoral process, broadened inclusion structures, created transparent policies for funding EC members, and improved administration with appointment of Malcolm Torry as General Manager. I have instituted secret ballot, pursued gender balance, and set up task forces to promote engagement with our affiliates and other civic actors. I have opened new EC positions to strengthen our research and fundraising profile. In fundraising, I aim to pursue three strategies, linked with (i) membership, (ii) earmarked crowdfunding for affiliate educational engagement, and (iii) research and education commissioned by BIEN.

Through an annual business plan I aim to ensure our spend is divided between education and administration, in accordance with our charter. I am committed to keeping a share of BIEN's capital as a reserve fund, and ensure that, in accordance with our constitution, we act as an educational charity. I aim to encourage the formation of a separate organisation to channel the campaign mission. This will enable critical research and engagement in BIEN and direct campaigning to flourish independently, and engage each other productively. I want to promote cooperation internally, to channel energies outward to representation of expertise and knowledge in social and policy fora. As basic income is taken up by global actors, the need for dedication on our part to independent scrutiny, conceptual clarity, critical opinion, and fact-based news, research, and debate, is greater than ever.