

Prof Peter French: Summary Curriculum Vitae

(i) Peter French is an independent forensic consultant specialising in the analysis of digital and magnetic recordings, speech and language samples and is Honorary Professor in the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at the University of York.

(ii) He holds degrees of the Universities of Leeds, Manchester and Bristol, including a post-graduate degree in linguistics with phonetics (B.Ling with Distinction) and a doctoral degree (Ph.D) in the analysis of recorded conversation. He also holds the International Phonetic Association Certificate in Phonetics.

(iii) Prof French is a Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics (F.I.O.A.), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (F.R.S.A.) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

He is a Founder Member of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, of which he was Chairman for 15 years, having been first elected in 1991 and then four times re-elected until, in 2006, he was elected President of the organisation. He is a Member of the International Phonetics Association, a Fellow and UK Secretary of the International Society for Phonetic Sciences and a Registered Professional Member of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians.

(iv) For some fifteen years He held full-time academic posts (first Research Assistant then Lecturer then Senior Lecturer) where his responsibilities were to undergraduate and post-graduate teaching and research.

(v) He has published widely on matters relating to audio-recordings, sound and speech. Some selected publications relating specifically to forensic matters include:

- Baldwin, J. & French, J.P. (1990) *Forensic Phonetics*. London: Pinter.
- French, J.P. (1990) 'Forensic applications of phonetics'. *Terminologie & Traduction*. No.1. Commission des Communautés Européennes.
- French, J.P. (1990) 'Analytic procedures for the determination of disputed utterances'. *Texte zu Theorie und Praxis forensicher Linguistik*. In H. Kniffka (ed.) Tübingen: Niemeyer Verlag, 201-213.
- Hirson, A., Howard, D.M., French, J.P. & Szymanski, J.E. (1993) 'A survey of fundamental frequency-estimation techniques used in forensic phonetics'. *Proceedings Institute of Acoustics*. Vol. 15(7). Reproduced Sound 9. Liverpool: Rayross.
- French, J.P. (1993) 'Authenticity examinations of audio recordings'. *Proceedings Institute of Acoustics*. Vol. 15(7). Reproduced Sound 9. Liverpool: Rayross.
- French, J.P. (1993) 'Developments in forensic speaker identification'. *Institute of Acoustics Bulletin*. Vol. 18(5)
- French, J.P. (1994) 'An overview of forensic phonetics with particular reference to speaker identification'. *Forensic Linguistics: The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*. 1(2), 197-206.
- French, J.P. (1998) 'Mr Akbar's nearest ear versus the Lombard reflex: a case study in forensic phonetics'. *Forensic Linguistics*. Vol. 5(1).
- Foulkes, P. & French, J.P. (2001) 'Forensic phonetics and sociolinguistics'. In R. Mesthrie (ed.) *Concise Encyclopaedia of Sociolinguistics*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Press, 329-332.

- French, J.P. & Harrison, P. (2004) 'Case Report. R -v- Ingram, C., Ingram, D. and Whittock, T. The Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Fraud Trial.' *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law* Vol. 11(1).
- French, J.P. & Harrison, P. (2006) 'Investigative and evidential applications of forensic speech science'. In A. Heaton-Armstrong, E. Shepherd, G. Gudjonsson and D. Wolchover (eds.) *Witness Testimony: Psychological, Investigative and Evidential Perspectives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- French, J.P., Harrison, P. & Windsor Lewis, J. (2006) 'Case Report. R -v- Humble, J.S. The Yorkshire Ripper Hoaxer Trial.' *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law* Vol. 13(2).
- Harrison, P. & French, JP. (2007) 'Forensic speech analysis and the logically coherent expression of conclusions.' In M.T Turell, J Cicres and M.S.Spassova, (eds.) *Proceedings of the 2nd European Conference on Forensic Linguistics/Language and the Law, Barcelona, 2006*. Barcelona: Institut Universitari De Linguistica Aplicada - Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Documenta Universitaria.
- French, J.P. (2007) 'Sound evidence: the work of the expert witness in acoustics.' *Your Witness: The Solicitor's Choice*. Autumn issue.
- French, J.P. (2007) 'Caller on the line: an illustrated introduction to the work of a forensic speech scientist.' *Journal of the Medico-Legal Society*, Vol. 75 (3).
- French, J.P. & Harrison, P. (2007) 'Position statement concerning use of impressionistic likelihood terms in forensic speaker comparison cases.' *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law* Vol. 14(1).

He was a founding editor and is currently a co-editor of The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law.

See: <http://www.equinoxpub.com/journals/main.asp?jref=62>

(vi) Prof French has been consulted as an expert witness on more than 5000 occasions in relation to the authentication of recordings, speaker identification, comparisons of language usage and the enhancement and interpretation of noisy or otherwise difficult recordings. He has appeared in the witness box more than 200 times. In addition to British work, he has been consulted in cases from countries including Eire, France, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the former USSR, Israel, India, Pakistan, Greece, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Uganda, Zambia, Australia, Mauritius, Canada, South Africa and the USA. Consultations have been in relation to matters being heard before courts of all levels, up to and including International Commission of Enquiry and International War Crimes Tribunal levels.

He was retained by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry as an expert witness on audio tape interpretation and authentication and also by the United Nations in relation to the prosecution of war crimes cases from the former Yugoslavia. He has appeared as an expert witness for the UN in the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

In criminal cases Prof French works for both prosecution and defence. Some high profile and international cases in which he has acted are:

R = Report

WB = Witness Box

R -v- Mark Rothermerl & Pierre St Ange. First case in the UK where forensic linguistic evidence concerning authorship of a written document was given. Trial for murder. Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London, 1989. Instructed by the Defence for St Ange. R & WB

Irish Free State -v- Vincent Connell. Trial for murder. Central Criminal Court, Dublin, 1991. Instructed by Director of Public Prosecutions, Dublin. R

R -v- [Name withheld at request of defendant]. Trial for first degree murder. Ontario Provincial Court, Toronto, Canada, November 1993. Instructed by the Defence. R & WB

R -v- David Harold Eastman. Murder of Assistant Commissioner of Australian Federal Police. Supreme Court, Canberra, 1995. Instructed by Director of Public Prosecutions, Australian Capital Territory. R & WB

See: <http://judgments.fedcourt.gov.au/1997/FD008390.htm>

R -v- Ransford Nedrick. Appeal against conviction for murder, Court of Criminal Appeal, London, August, 1996. Instructed by the Crown. R

State of Mauritius -v- Sir Bhinood Bacha (Home Secretary of Mauritius). Trial for Murder, Supreme Court of Mauritius, Port Luis, 1996. Instructed by the Defence. R & WB

R -v- Louis Brancato & Antonio Barcelo. Trial for possession of controlled drug with intent to supply. Supreme Court of Gibraltar, May 1998. Instructed by the Defence for Barcelo. R & WB

R -v- Derek Bentley. Posthumous appeal against conviction, Court of Criminal Appeal, London, August, 1998. Instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service. R

R -v- Nabil Mrish. Trial for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. District Court, Sydney Australia, May 1999. Instructed by Director of Public Prosecutions, Sydney. R & WB

R -v- Iain Hay-Gordon – appeal against conviction, Court of Criminal Appeal, Belfast, October 2000. Instructed by Director of Public Prosecutions, Northern Ireland. R

See: http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/0CA9F5DF-7795-47F3-B27E-8DFF91ACDD57/0/j_j_CAR3298.htm

R -v- Michael Stone. "Russell murders" trial. Nottingham Crown Court, 2001. Instructed by the Defence. R

United Nations -v- General Radislav Krstic. Trial for Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and Violations of the Laws or Customs of War. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, 2001. Instructed by the United Nations. R & WB

See: <http://www.un.org/icty/transe33/010319ed.htm>

Irish Free State -v- Colm Murphy. "Omagh bombing" conspiracy trial, Special Criminal Court, Dublin, 2001 - 2002. Instructed by the Defence. R & WB

See: <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~eirenuua/2001/dec01/saoirse1.htm>

R -v- Woogate, Bowyer, Clifford, Duberry & Ors. The Leeds United footballers trial for racial assault. Hull Crown Court, 2001. Instructed by the Crown. R

R -v- Anthony O'Doherty. Appeal against conviction for aggravated burglary and causing GBH with intent. Northern Ireland Court of Criminal Appeal, Belfast, 2002. Instructed by Director of Public Prosecutions, Belfast. R & WB

R -v- Ingram, Whittock and Ingram. The 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' coughing trial. Southwark Crown Court, London, March & April, 2003. Instructed by the Crown. R & WB

See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2858649.stm>

R -v- Ian Huntley & Maxine Carr. The Soham murder trial. Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London. November & December, 2003. Instructed by the Defence for Ms Carr. R

Investigation of 'Melnychenko Recordings'. Appointed to international group of experts investigating authenticity of audio recordings allegedly implicating President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine in the murder of journalist Georgiy

Gongadze and in sale of high technology radar systems to Iraq in violation of UN sanctions. May 2004. Instructed by Ministry of Justice, Kyiv, Ukraine. R

United Nations -v- Slobodan Milošević. Trial for Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and Violations of the Laws or Customs of War, The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague. 2003 - 2006. Instructed on behalf of Tribunal Judges (ie, independent of prosecution and defence). R

See: <http://www.un.org/icty/milosevic/trialc/decision-e/040614.htm>

R -v- Nathan Martin, Marcus Ellis, Michael Gregory, Rodrigo Simms & Tarfarwa Beckford. Trial for the shooting and murder of Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare in Birmingham, January 2003. Leicester Crown Court, November 2004 – March 2005. Instructed by the Defence for Beckford. R

See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/west_midlands/4276207.stm

R -v- David Francis Bieber. Trial for the murder of PC Ian Broadhurst and the attempted murder of PCs Neil Roper and James Banks, in Leeds, 26th December 2003. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Crown Court, November – December 2004. Instructed by the Crown. R & WB

See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_yorkshire/4039057.stm

Sarah Forsyth -v- Eton College. The Prince Harry A-level Art tape. Employment Tribunal Hearing, Reading, Berks. Judgment July 2005. Instructed for the claimant. R

See: <http://education.guardian.co.uk/publicschools/story/0,12505,1327985,00.html>

R -v- Abu Hamza al-Masri. Trial for soliciting murder, inciting racial hatred, possession of audio and video recordings for distribution to stir up racial hatred, possession of a document likely to be useful to a terrorist, Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London. 2005-6. Instructed by the Crown. R

See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4690224.stm>

R -v- John Humble. The Yorkshire Ripper Hoaxer case. Trial for attempting to pervert the course of justice, Leeds Crown Court, March 2006. Instructed by the Crown. R

See: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2095988,00.html>

R -v- Muzzaker Imtiaz Shah, Yusuf Abdillh Jamma, Raza Ul-Haq Aslam, Faisal Razzaq & Hassan Razzaq. Trial for murder of PC Sharon Beshenivski, Newcastle Crown Court, October – December 2006. Instructed by the Crown. R

See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/west_yorkshire/6183431.stm

R -v- William Maurice Webb. Trial for murder of Felicity Paget. Winchester Crown Court, December 2006. Instructed by the Crown, but called as witness for the Defence. R & WB.

See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/6201057.stm>

The State of Ghana -v- Kwabena Amaning & Alhaji Issah Abbass Trial for conspiracy to import and supply narcotic drugs and carrying out prohibited business. High Court, Accra, November 2006 – November 2007. R & WB.

See: http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news_detail.php?newsid=3459§ion=1

R -v- Michael Hubble. The disappearance of the yacht Ouzo after alleged collision with P&O ferry the Pride of Bilbao. Trial for three counts of manslaughter and charges of endangering lives under the Merchant Shipping Act. Winchester Crown Court, December 2007. Instructed by the Defence. R

See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/7142272.stm>

(vii) Prof French frequently makes presentations of papers to academic and professional audiences, and in 2007 is giving invited keynote presentations to the annual Specom (The International Conference on Speech and Computing) conference in October in Moscow and to the Australian Research Council, Human Communication Science, conference on Perspectives in State-of-the-Art Forensic Speaker Recognition in December in Sydney

(viii) Prof French has appeared widely in television and radio broadcasts on his area of expertise and was in 2002 presenter of the Sony Silver Award winning Radio 3 broadcast entitled Extraneous Noises Off, which also received the BBC nomination for Prix Italia.

(viii) In the past four years he has provided in-house training seminars and practical instruction in analytic techniques to scientific and technical staff of the Metropolitan Police in London and the FBI and United States Secret Service in Washington DC.

(ix) In addition to undertaking his forensic casework, during 2006 – 2007 he was involved with teaching an undergraduate module in Forensic Phonetics, and - with Dr Paul Foulkes - developing and planning the world's first degree in that discipline, the MSc in Forensic Speech Science, in the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at the University of York.

See: <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/lang/postgrad/forensic.htm>

During the same period he devoted time to pioneering and developing with colleagues from York, Plymouth and the University of Cambridge a new framework for the expression of conclusions in forensic speaker comparison cases. The framework has now been adopted by forensic speech scientists throughout the UK, thereby bringing practice in this field into conceptual alignment with 'core' areas of forensic science, including DNA analysis.

His present casework includes a further case of crimes against humanity being prosecuted by the United Nations at The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and a continuing contract for speaker comparison work with the Netherlands Forensic Institute.