

Prof. John Peter French Ph.D (Bristol), Dr h.c. (Zurich), FIOA

Summary Curriculum Vitae

Principal Positions & Offices

Professorships

Emeritus Professor of Forensic Speech Science, Univ of York

Honorary Visiting Professor of Forensic Speech Science, Univ of Huddersfield

Honorary Visiting Professor, York St John Univ

Other Professional Offices & Roles

Company Chairman & CEO, JP French Associates Forensic Speech & Acoustics Laboratory, York

Co-Founder and Executive Board Member, Centre for Forensic Phonetics & Acoustics, Univ of Zürich

Chairman of UK Home Office Forensic Science Regulator's Group on Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis

Founding Editor (Phonetics & Acoustics) *The International Journal of Speech, Language & the Law*

Selected Previous Positions & Offices

Chair of International Association for Forensic Phonetics & Acoustics 1991 – 2006 i.e. Founding Chair and five times re-elected as Chair until elected as **President** in 2006 and retired from Presidency in 2022

Lead Assessor for subject specialty Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis, Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners, 2008 – 2009 (when CRFC disbanded)

External Advisor to Interpol Speaker Identification Integrated Project (SIIP) 2014 - 2018

STEM Ambassador (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics – UK Government initiative), 2010 - 2016

Honours

Honorary Doctorate (Dr h.c.) for 'achievements in forensic phonetics and ... considerable work in solving crimes based on acoustic and auditory analyses of the human voice', University of Zurich, awarded 2022

Lifetime Achievement Award for services to forensic phonetics, Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics, awarded 2018

Honorary Life Membership of The International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (only 4 other such awards made in the history of the organisation), awarded 2016

Qualifications

PhD Analysis of recorded conversation, Univ of Bristol, 1982

BLing (Distinction) postgraduate degree in Linguistics with Phonetics, Univ of Manchester, 1977

Certificate in English Phonetics, International Phonetic Association, 1977

BEd (Hons) English & Education, Univ of Leeds, 1976

Cert Ed (Distinction) English & Education, Univ of Leeds, 1975

Forensic Casework

Prof French has been involved in more than 6,000 forensic cases involving speech and audio analysis, and in criminal matters has accepted instructions from both prosecution and defence. In addition to UK jurisdictions, he has provided evidence for cases being heard in countries including Eire, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Greece, Portugal, Ghana, Gibraltar, Israel, India, Hong Kong, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Canada, USA, Norway

His evidence has been for cases tried by courts of all levels up to International Commission of Enquiry, International War Crimes Tribunal (e.g. United Nations -v- Slobodan Milošević) and Independent International Tribunal (The China Tribunal). He has appeared in the witness box more than 200 times.

Fellowships

Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics
Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine
Fellow of the International Society for Phonetic Sciences
Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts
Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society
Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers

Memberships

Founder Member of International Association for Forensic Phonetics & Acoustics
Member of the International Association of Forensic Linguists
Member of the International Phonetic Association
Member of British Association of Academic Phoneticians
Member of Bayes and the Law Group (Queen Mary, University of London)

Recent PhD & Post-Doctoral Degree Examining

Internal examiner, PhD – six times: University of York
External examiner & Panel Chair, PhD: Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
External examiner, PhD: University of Cambridge
External examiner, PhD: University of Zurich
External examiner, Habilitation (post-doctoral degree): University of Zurich

Current PhD Supervision

Four PhD students at Univ of York; 1 PhD student at Univ of Zurich; 1 PhD student at Open Univ of Mauritius; Supervisor & Chair of Advisory Panel for 1 PhD student at Univ of Nis.

Research Grants

Bayesian Biometrics for Forensics (Language & Speech Element), award under the Marie Curie European Initial Training Network Scheme with Prof Paul Foulkes, Prof Dominic Watt and Dr Philip Harrison.

Modelling Features for Forensic Speech Comparison award from British Academy/Leverhulme Trust with Prof Paul Foulkes, Dr Erica Gold, Dr Vincent Hughes, Dr Philip Harrison, Louisa Stevens, Prof Colin Aitken (Univ of Edinburgh) and Dr Tereza Neocleous (Univ of Glasgow).

Voice and Identity: source, filter, biometric award from AHRC with Prof Paul Foulkes, Dr Philip Harrison and Dr Vincent Hughes.

The use and utility of localised speech forms in determining identity: forensic and sociophonetic perspectives award from ESRC with Prof Carmen Llamas and Prof Dominic Watt.

(Grants total - c. £2.5m)

Editorial Responsibilities

Editor (Phonetics & Acoustics) *International Journal of Speech Language & the Law*
Editorial Board member *Journal of Acoustics*
Editorial Board member *Applied Sciences*
Advisory Board member *Babel – the Magazine about Language*

Forensic & Related Publications

Prof French has published more than 50 book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

Prof French regularly makes plenary & invited presentations at professional and academic conferences and delivers guest lectures to universities, law enforcement and other institutions across the world.

Media

Prof French has appeared widely in television and radio broadcasts and newspaper and magazine interviews on his areas of expertise and was presenter of a BBC Radio 3 broadcast on forensic speech science that received the BBC nomination for Prix Italia and won the Sony Silver Award.

Provision of Training in Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis

Through JP French Associates, Prof French has provided advice, in-house training seminars and practical instruction in analytic techniques to scientific and technical staff of:

Swedish National Forensic Centre
Ministry of Interior in Abu Dhabi
Metropolitan Police in London
UK security services and national law enforcement
FBI and United States Secret Service in Washington DC
Netherlands Forensic Institute.

At the University of York, Prof French co-designed with Prof Paul Foulkes the MSc degree in Forensic Speech Science, for which he delivered lectures and supervised dissertations. He also designed and directed the CPD course, mainly for law enforcement and government security staff, on Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis.

At the University of Zurich, Prof French together with Prof Volker Dellwo provides the training in analytic and court reporting skills in Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics to scientific staff recruited to the Swiss state laboratory, Forensisches Institut Zürich