

Christin Kirchhübel: Summary Curriculum Vitae

Dr Christin Kirchhübel (BA MSc PhD) is a full-time forensic consultant in speech analysis and she is the founder of Soundscape Voice Evidence. She has worked on over 700 cases in the areas of forensic voice comparison, transcription and disputed utterance analysis as well as other miscellaneous cases. She takes instructions from police forces across the UK, the National Crime Agency, the Crown Prosecution Service and defence solicitors, and she provides evidence as an expert witness in court. Almost all her work takes place within the jurisdictions of England and Wales and Northern Ireland, but she has been instructed in international cases too - Germany, Ireland, Jamaica, Switzerland. She has authored and co-authored scientific articles and book chapters. She is involved in the supervision of postgraduate students, and she frequently delivers lectures and presentations to universities and other audiences. She has delivered a training course to the Zurich Forensic Science Institute in voice comparison methodology in June 2020, and she is also involved in the delivery of continuing professional development courses to the National Crime Agency.

Positions

Forensic Consultant, Soundscape Voice Evidence, Lancaster: March 2019 - present

Forensic Consultant, J P French Associates, York: January 2013 – February 2019

Associate Lecturer, Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York: January 2013 – February 2019

Qualifications

PhD Music Technology (Forensic Speech Science), University of York

MSc Forensic Speech Science (Distinction), University of York

BA English Language and Linguistics (1st Class Hons), Lancaster University

Graduate Diploma in Law (with Distinction), BPP University

Memberships

Member of the UK Forensic Science Regulator's group on Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis

Member of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics

Member of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians

Member of the International Speech Communication Association

Notable Cases

R v Keith Hall. Instructed by the Crown. Trial for Murder (amongst others). Teesside Crown Court.

Transcription and Speaker Comparison: I was asked to transcribe covertly recorded material obtained from within a building. I was also asked to compare the voices that could be heard within the covertly recorded material to those of known speakers. The purpose of the comparison was to establish who said what from a closed set of known speaker, i.e. closed set voice comparison.

R v Ola Orulebaja. Instructed by the Defence. Trial for Conspiracy to Commit Robbery. Kingston upon Thames Crown Court. **Speaker Comparison:** I was asked to compare the voices of questioned speakers in covertly recorded conversations taken from a vehicle with those of Ola Orulebaja. The purpose of the comparison was to provide evidence regarding speaker identity/non-identity.

R v David Carney & Tracey Fielding. Instructed by the Crown. Trial for murder and manslaughter. Preston Crown Court. **Transcription:** I was asked to transcribe poor quality audio contained on CCTV footage.

R v Matthew Moseley. Instructed by the Crown. Trial for murder. Preston Crown Court. **Transcription and speaker comparison:** I was asked to transcribe an emergency call made to police as well as a covertly recorded conversation obtained from within a vehicle. I was also asked to compare some of the voices in the call to police with two known voices in order to provide evidence regarding speaker identity/non-identity.

R v Umar Ahmed Haque and others. Instructed by the Crown. Trial for the preparation of acts of terrorism (amongst others). Central Criminal Court. **Speaker comparison:** I was asked to compare the voices of 4 men in covertly recorded conversations taken from a vehicle and a house with those of 4 suspects. The purpose of the comparison was to provide evidence regarding speaker identity/non-identity.

Testimonials (selected)

'I thought the evidence you gave whilst under aggressive cross examination was excellent and your calm professional manner shone through as did your clear and obvious knowledge on the subject.' – HMRC

'Not only were our counsel extremely impressed by you but I hear that numerous defence counsel were too.' – HMRC

'Your evidence in this case was absolutely key and the manner in which you presented it to the court was commented on favourably by the Judge.' – Officer from Police Service in Northern Ireland.

Publications

Kirchhübel, C., Brown, G., Foulkes, P. (2023). What does method validation look like for forensic voice comparison by a human expert? *Science & Justice*, 63(2), 251 – 257.

Kirchhübel, C. and Brown, G. (2022). Spoofed speech from the perspective of a forensic phonetician. *Proceedings of the 23rd Interspeech conference*, 18-22 September, Incheon, South Korea.

Gold, E., Kirchhübel, C., Earnshaw, K., Ross, S. (2022). Regional Variation in British English Voice Quality. *English World-Wide*, 43(1), 96 – 123.

Brown, G., Ross, S., Kirchhübel, C. (2021). Voicing Concerns: The balance between data protection principles and research developments in forensic speech science. *Science & Justice*, 61, 311 – 318.

Klug, K., Kirchhübel, C., Foulkes, P., French, P. (2019) 'Analysing breathy voice in forensic speaker comparison: Using acoustics to confirm perception.' *Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 5-9 August, Melbourne, Australia, 795-799.

McDougall, K., R. Rhodes, R., Duckworth M., French, J. P., Kirchhübel, C. (2019) 'Application of the 'TOFFA' framework to the analysis of disfluencies in forensic phonetic casework.' *Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 5-9 August, Melbourne, Australia, 731-735.

Kirchhübel, C., Howard, D. M., and Stedmon, A. (2015). Deception and speech: A theoretical overview to inform future research. In A. Stedmon and G. Lawson (Eds.). *Hostile Intent and Counter-Terrorism: Human factors theory and application*. Ashgate, Farnham, pp. 295-316.

Kirchhübel, C., Howard, D. M., and Stedmon, A. (2013). Analysing deceptive speech. In D. Harris, (Ed.). *EPCE'13 Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Engineering Psychology and Cognitive Ergonomics*. Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, pp. 134–141.

Kirchhübel, C. and Howard, D. M. (2013). Detecting suspicious behaviour using speech: Acoustic correlates of deceptive speech - an exploratory investigation. *Applied Ergonomics*, 44(5), 694–702.

Kirchhübel, C. and Howard, D. M. (2011) Acoustic correlates of deceptive speech: an exploratory study. In D. Harris (Ed.). *EPCE'11 Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Engineering Psychology and Cognitive Ergonomics*. Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, pp. 28-37.

Kirchhübel, C. and Howard, D. M. (2011) Investigating the acoustic characteristics of deceptive speech. *Proceedings of the 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Hong Kong*, pp. 1094-1097.

Kirchhübel, C., Howard, D. M., and Stedmon, A. (2011) Acoustic correlates of speech when under stress: research, methods and future directions. *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, 18, 75-98.

Kirchhübel, C. (2010). The effects of Lombard speech on vowel formant measurements. The effects of Lombard speech on vowel formant measurements. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 128, 2395.

Presentations (selected)

Kirchhübel, C., Brown, G., and Foulkes, P. (2022). Demonstrating rigour and transparency as a sole practitioner in forensic speech science. *4th European Conference of the International Association of Forensic and Legal Linguistics*, Porto, Portugal, 18th – 21st July

Kirchhübel, C. and Brown, G. (2021). Competency testing: opportunities and challenges. *International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA) conference*, Marburg, Germany, 22nd – 25th August

Kirchhübel, C. (2018). Working as a forensic speech consultant. *Germanic Society Forensic Linguistics Roundtable*, York, UK, 1-4 August. **[invited]**

Kirchhübel, C. (2016). Understanding of forensic speaker comparison conclusions in the legal setting. *Germanic Society Forensic Linguistics Roundtable*, Mainz, Germany, 27-29 August. **[invited]**