

Prof. Peter French



## Research interests

Human voice and speech behaviour.

## Employment

### Visiting Professor

University of York St John

United Kingdom

1 Apr 2019 → present

### Professorial Fellow and Executive Board Member

University of Zurich

1 Mar 2019 → present

### Visiting Professor of Forensic Speech Science

The University of Huddersfield

United Kingdom

1 Jan 2016 → present

### Chair

Home Office Forensic Science Regulator's Committee for Forensic Speech and Audio

United Kingdom

1 Jan 2013 → present

### Chairman

J P French Associates Forensic Speech and Acoustics Laboratory

United Kingdom

1 Jan 1989 → present

## Research outputs

### Speaker-specificity in speech production: the contribution of source and filter

Hughes, V., Cardoso, A. B., Foulkes, P., French, P., Harrison, P. & Gully, A., 1 Mar 2023, In: Journal of Phonetics. 97, 15 p., 101224.

### Assessing the effects of accent-mismatched reference population databases on the performance of an automatic speaker recognition system

Watt, D., Harrison, P., Hughes, V., French, P., Llamas, C., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 27 Aug 2020, In: International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law. 27, 1, p. 1-34 34 p.

### Effects of formant settings and channel mismatch on semi-automatic systems in forensic voice comparison

Hughes, V., Harrison, P. T., Foulkes, P., French, J. P. & Gully, A. J., 2020, *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*. p. 3080-3084

**The use of the vocal profile analysis for speaker characterization: methodological proposals**

San Segundo Fernandez, E., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Harrison, P. T., Hughes, V. & Kavanagh, C., 6 Dec 2019, In: Journal of the International Phonetic Association. 49, 3, p. 353-380 28 p.

**LADO as forensic speaker profiling**

Foulkes, P., French, P. & Wilson, K., 25 Oct 2019, *Language Analysis for the Determination of Origin*. Patrick, P., Schmid, M. & Zwaan, K. (eds.). Springer, p. 91-116 (Language Policy; vol. 16).

**Vowel change across time, space, and conversational topic: the use of localized features in former mining communities**

Devlin, T., French, P. & Llamas, C., Oct 2019, In: Language Variation and Change. 31, 3, p. 303-328 25 p.

**Examining articulatory settings using MRI: pilot results**

Gully, A. J., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Harrison, P. T. & Hughes, V., 14 Jul 2019, (Accepted/In press).

**International Practices in Forensic Speaker Comparisons: Second Survey**

Gold, E. & French, J. P., 27 Jun 2019, In: International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law. 26, 1, 16 p.

**Forensic speaker comparison: the role of linguistic analysis**

French, J. P., 24 May 2019, *InterFORENSICS Conference 2019*.

**What can automatic accent recognition technology bring to language analysis in the asylum process (LAAP)? A demonstration using spoken Arabic dialect data. Workshop on Arabic and language analysis in asylum procedures**

Brown, G., Alhussein Almbark, R., French, J. P. & Hellmuth, S., 9 Apr 2019, *Workshop on Arabic and language analysis in asylum procedures*.

**Forensic voice comparison using long-term acoustic measures of voice quality**

Cardoso, A., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Gully, A. J., Harrison, P. T. & Hughes, V., 12 Feb 2019, (Accepted/In press) *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*.

**Sub-regional 'other-accent' effects on lay listeners' speaker identification abilities: a voice line-up study with speakers and listeners from the North East of England**

Braun, A., Llamas, C., Watt, D., French, J. P. & Robertson, D., 7 Dec 2018, In: International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law. 25, 2, p. 231-255

**Voice biometrics for forensic speaker recognition applications**

Dellwo, V., French, J. P. & He, L., 6 Dec 2018, *The Oxford Handbook of Voice Perception*. Frühholz, S. & Belin, P. (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 777-798 21 p.

**Sub-regional 'other accent' effects in a forensic phonetic speaker identification experiment**

Braun, A., Watt, D., Llamas, C., French, J. P. & Robertson, D., 3 Aug 2018.

**Comparing Apples with Apples, Apples with Oranges and Apples with Apples and Oranges: the Effects of (Mis)matching Reference Population Accents in ASR Speaker Comparisons**

French, J. P., Harrison, P. T., Hughes, V., Watt, D., Llamas, C., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 30 Jul 2018.

**Sociophonetic factors predict phoneme boundary location in production and perception among speakers of three varieties of British English**

Watt, D., Llamas, C., French, J. P., Braun, A., Robertson, D. & Kendall, T., 22 Jun 2018.

**Why "Ad Hoc Experts" should not Provide Transcripts of Indistinct Audio, and a Better Approach**

French, P. & Fraser, H., 1 May 2018, In: Criminal Law Journal. 42, 5, p. 298-302 6 p.

**TUULS of the forensics trade: assessing the viability of pooling heterogeneous speech corpora for automatic speaker comparison purposes**

Watt, D., French, J. P., Harrison, P. T., Hughes, V., Llamas, C., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 12 Apr 2018.

**A new corpus of Northern Englishes: Building the TUULS database for sociolinguistic and forensic research on phonetic variation in the Northeast of England**

Watt, D., Llamas, C., French, J. P., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 28 Mar 2018.

**The individual and the system: Assessing the stability of the output of a semi-automatic forensic voice comparison system**

Hughes, V., Harrison, P. T., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Kavanagh, C. & San Segundo Fernandez, E., 2018, *Proceedings of Interspeech 2018*.

**Routinised mobility and vowel change in the North East of England**

Llamas, C., Watt, D., French, J. P., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 7 Jun 2017.

**Mapping across feature spaces in forensic voice comparison: the contribution of auditory-based voice quality to (semi-)automatic system testing**

Hughes, V., Harrison, P. T., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Kavanagh, C. & San Segundo Fernandez, E., 30 May 2017, (Accepted/In press) *Proceedings of Interspeech 2017*. Stockholm, Sweden

**The effects of assimilation and host community structure in historical dialect contact contexts**

Llamas, C., Watt, D., French, J. P., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 6 Apr 2017, (Unpublished).

**A developmental history of forensic speaker comparison in the UK**

French, J. P., 8 Jan 2017, In: *English Phonetics*. 21, p. 271 – 286 15 p.

**Routinised mobility and vowel change at the individual and community level in the North East of England**

Llamas, C., Watt, D., French, J. P., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 2017, (Unpublished).

**The complementarity of automatic, semi-automatic, and phonetic measures of vocal tract output in forensic voice comparison**

San Segundo Fernandez, E., Hughes, V., Harrison, P. T., Foulkes, P., French, J. P. & Kavanagh, C., 2017.

**Forensic aspects of spectral and durational variability in English schwa at the individual, community and regional levels**

Watt, D., Llamas, C., French, J. P., Braun, A. & Robertson, D., 25 Jul 2016, (Unpublished).

**Developing the vocal profile analysis scheme for forensic voice comparison**

San Segundo Fernandez, E., Hughes, V., French, J. P., Foulkes, P. & Harrison, P. T., 2016, (Unpublished).

**Perceptual similarity of identical twins across different L1 listeners: the importance of voice quality in Forensic Phonetics**

San Segundo Fernandez, E., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Hughes, V. & Koester, O., 2016, (Unpublished).

**Thirty years on...**

French, P., 2016.

**Voice quality in Panjabi English: sociophonetic and forensic considerations**

Wormald, J. H., French, P., Harrison, P. T., Rhodes, R. W., Kirchhübel, C. & Watt, D., 2016.

**HASR to AHSR**

French, P., Foulkes, P., Harrison, P., Hughes, V. & San Segundo Fernandez, E., 2015, *The 24th Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA)*, Leiden, Netherlands.

**Long term measures of the resonating vocal tract: establishing correlation and complementarity**

French, P., Foulkes, P., Harrison, P., Hughes, V., San Segundo Fernandez, E. & Stevens, L. C., 2015, *The 24th Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA)*, Leiden, Netherlands. p. 1-2 2 p.

### **The vocal tract as a biometric: output measures, interrelationships, and efficacy**

French, P., Foulkes, P., Harrison, P., Hughes, V., San Segundo Fernandez, E. & Stevens, L. C., 2015, *Proceedings of ICPHS 2015: 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. University of Glasgow, 5 p. (ICPhS Proceedings; vol. 18).

### **Examining long-term formant distributions as a discriminant in forensic speaker comparisons under a likelihood ratio framework**

Gold, E., French, P. & Harrison, P., 19 Jun 2013, In: *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics*. 19, 8 p., 060041.

### **The UK position statement on forensic speaker comparison: a rejoinder to Rose and Morrison**

French, P., Nolan, F., Foulkes, P., Harrison, P. & McDougall, K., 2010, In: *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*. 17, 2, p. 143-152 10 p.

### **A case study in forensic acoustics: The 'Who wants to be a millionaire'? fraud trial**

French, P. & Harrison, P., 1 Mar 2005, In: *Acoustics Bulletin*. 30, 2, p. 14-19 6 p.

## **Activities**

### **Analysing the effect of language on speaker-specific speech rhythm in Cantonese-English bilinguals**

Adas Li (Speaker), Peter French (Speaker), Volker Dellwo (Speaker) & Eleanor Chodroff (Speaker)  
Feb 2021

### **Voice and identity: applications and limitations of the voice as a biometric**

Colleen Kavanagh (Speaker), Paul Foulkes (Speaker), Vincent Hughes (Speaker), John Peter French (Speaker) & Philip Thomas Harrison (Speaker)  
2 Oct 2017

## **Prizes**

### **Honorary Life Membership of The International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics**

French, Peter (Recipient), 2016

### **Lifetime Achievement Award for services to forensic phonetics, Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics,**

French, Peter (Recipient), 2018

## **Awards**

### **The use and utility of localised speech forms in determining identity**

Llamas, C., French, P. & Watt, D.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ESRC): £649,756.00

4/01/16 → 2/07/19

## **Projects**

### **BBfor2, MC ITN: Bayesian Biometrics for Forensics**

Foulkes, P., French, P., Harrison, P., Watt, D., Fecher, N. & Gold, E. A.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1/01/10 → 31/12/13

### **Modelling features for forensic speaker comparison**

Foulkes, P., French, P., Gold, E. A., Harrison, P. & Hughes, V.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY

1/06/13 → 31/05/15

### **The use and utility of localised speech forms in determining identity**

Llamas, C., French, P., Watt, D. & French, P.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ESRC)

4/01/16 → 2/07/19

### **Voice and Identity: source, filter, biometric**

Foulkes, P., French, P., Harrison, P., Hughes, V. & San Segundo Fernandez, E.

AHRC

1/02/15 → 11/09/19

## **Impacts**

### **CV**

CV

2019	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet
2018	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet
2017	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet
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