

Dr Richard Rhodes: Professional CV

Dr Richard Rhodes (BA MSc PhD MCSFS) is a Forensic Specialist in Speech & Audio and a Director at The Forensic Voice Centre. He has worked on over 1300 forensic cases, acting as the principal reporting analyst in over half of these cases; These cases involved speaker comparison, audio enhancement, transcription, and disputed utterance analysis, as well as other miscellaneous cases that included forensic analysis of speech and audio recordings. This work is mostly based in the UK, but he has also worked on cases from across Ireland, Australia, Canada, and the United States. He works for both prosecution and defence in criminal cases and provides evidence as an expert witness in court. He has given evidence in a range of trials including large-scale murder, terrorism and organised-crime cases at courts across the UK including the Old Bailey, as well as in other courts including the Australian Supreme Court and a Federal Court in the United States Eastern District of Virginia (examples below).

Dr Rhodes has published in his field, and regularly gives presentations at international conferences on his expert subject area. He has carried out research into the effects of aging and assessing the strength of non-contemporaneous evidence, and on cognitive biases in the context of forensic speech science. He gives lectures and seminars on Forensic Speech Science and supervises postgraduate (MSc and PhD-level) research at the University of York. He has also delivered training on forensic phonetics at the International Summer School in Forensic Linguistic Analysis at Aston University.

Dr Rhodes is a member of several relevant organisations (see below) and is the Chair of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA), having previously been treasurer and membership secretary for 9 years (both executive committee positions). In that role, he was part of the group which re-developed the IAFPA Code of Practice for experts; he is also currently co-writing a chapter on Practitioner Standards for the Oxford Handbook of Forensic Phonetics.

Positions

Forensic Specialist (Speech & Audio) and Director, The Forensic Voice Centre, York, UK
Industry Associate, Forensic Speech Science, Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York, UK
[Previously: 2012-2023 – Senior Forensic Consultant, J P French Associates, York, UK]

Qualifications

2005 - 2012:
BA (First class honours) in Applied English Language Studies, University of Reading
MSc in Forensic Speech Science, University of York
PhD in Linguistics (Forensic Speech Science), University of York

Memberships

Member of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA)
Member of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians (BAAP)
Member of the International Society for Phonetic Sciences (ISPhS)
Member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (MCSFS)

Relevant external positions and activities

Chair of the executive committee for IAFPA (2021- present)
Treasurer & membership secretary and member of the executive committee for IAFPA (2012-2021)
Reviewer for *International Journal of Speech Language & the Law*; *Forensic Science International* and *Journal of Phonetics*

Notable Example Cases & Trials

USA -v- E - Investigations and prosecutions into British ISIS fighters - produced reports/transcripts for MPS and gave evidence in US Federal Court - voice comparison evidence admitted via *Daubert* admissibility test. Formal commendation awarded by SO15 Commander in December 2023.

R -v- M, G, L, C & Ors - Voice comparisons re. multiple suspects carried out as part of NCA's largest-ever drug importation prosecution; evidence agreed before required to attend court.

DPP -v- F & ors - Reports instructed by defence, and oral evidence at admissibility hearing re transcripts of covert material in New South Wales District Court, Sydney [by videolink].

R -v- B & ors - Murder trial at the Old Bailey; produced reports for MPS and consideration of defence report, expert's meeting, and joint statements, and gave oral evidence at CCC.

R -v- G & ors - Murder trial at Coventry CC; produced transcripts and reports for defence, including consideration of defence report/transcript, gave evidence [via videolink during COVID lockdown].

R -v- H & ors - Fraud trial at Inner London CC; produced reports and gave oral evidence; City of London IFED unit's largest prosecution.

R -v- A & S - Transcripts and voice comparison reports produced for defence in a murder trial; multiple days of prosecution and defence expert evidence on telephone calls at Liverpool CC.

Operation S - multiple enhancements and transcriptions produced as part of NCA surveillance operation; voice comparisons also completed by colleagues; guilty plea.

Operation A - large, complex array of forensic voice comparison evidence; multiple days of covert recordings; eventual guilty pleas at Reading CC.

Publications

Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K. & Nuttall, B. (2024) Managing Bias Risks - Information Management Strategies for Forensic Speech & Audio Analysis. *IJSLL - Professional Practice Report*.

Rhodes, R. & Cambier-Langeveld, T. (in-press) Practitioner Standards. *Oxford University Press Handbook of Forensic Phonetics* (forthcoming). McDougall, Nolan, Hudson (eds.).

Harrington, L., Rhodes, R., & Hughes, V. (2021) Style variability in disfluency analysis for forensic speaker comparison. *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, 28.1: 31-58.

McDougall, K.; Rhodes, R.; et al. (2019) Application of the 'TOFFA' Framework to the Analysis of Disfluencies in Forensic Phonetic Casework. *Proceedings of 19th ICPHS*.

Hughes, V. & Rhodes, R. (2018) Questions, propositions and assessing different levels of evidence: Forensic voice comparison in practice. *Science & Justice*, 58.4: 250-257.

Rhodes, R. (2017) Aging effects on voice features used in forensic speaker comparison. *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law [IJSLL]*, 24.2: 177-199.

Presentations (selected, recent)

Dr Rhodes has frequently presented at international conferences since 2009 - recent papers include:

Rhodes, R. (2024) Voice Analysis in UK Immigration Cases.

Rhodes, R., & Bartle, A. (2024) Voice Parades and Voice Comparison - a Case Study.

Earnshaw, K., Nuttall, B., Rhodes, R. & Thomas, M. (2024) Communicating Expert Evidence.

Harrison, P., Hughes, V., Rhodes, R. et al (2024) Method Validation of Phonetic Voice Comparison. *IAFPA conference*, Montreal, Canada.

Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K. E., Nuttall, B. (2024) Forensic Phonetics in the UK: provision & the regulatory position, recent cases, and our approach at the FVC. *IAFLL conference*, Aston, UK.

Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K. E., Nuttall, B. et al (2023) Casework Procedures and Information Management Strategies. *IAFPA conference*, Zurich, Switzerland.

Security Clearance

Current clearance - SC - NPPV level 3