

Dr Katherine Earnshaw: Curriculum Vitae

Dr Katherine Earnshaw (BA MSc PhD) is a Forensic Specialist in Speech & Audio and a Director at the Forensic Voice Centre. She has worked on over five hundred cases, including forensic voice comparison, transcription, questioned utterance analysis and audio enhancement. As an independent expert, she works for both prosecution and defence in criminal cases and she also undertakes work in other types of cases, such as family and civil matters. She produces evidential reports in a wide range of criminal proceedings including fraud, murder, and serious organised-crime cases. She also presents expert testimony in court.

Dr Earnshaw has carried out research on the impact of accommodation on a range of forensic phonetic parameters, and variation in West Yorkshire accents. As part of this work, she was involved in collecting the ESRC funded West Yorkshire Regional English Database (WYRED), which is the largest forensically-realistic voice database containing Northern British English accents. She is a member of several relevant organisations (see below), she has taught sociolinguistics to students at the University of Huddersfield, and she is also an Industry Associate at the University of York where she teaches postgraduates and contributes to research in forensic speech science.

Positions

Forensic Specialist (Speech & Audio) and Director at the Forensic Voice Centre, York, UK
Industry Associate, Forensic Speech Science, Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York, UK

2019 - May 2023: Forensic Consultant at J P French Associates, York, UK

2016 - 2019: Research Assistant in Forensic Speech Science and part time lecturer in Sociolinguistics, Department of English, Linguistics and History, University of Huddersfield, UK

Qualifications

These qualifications were obtained between 2010 - 2021:

BA (First class honours) English Language and Linguistics – University of Sheffield

MSc (Distinction) Forensic Speech Science – University of York

PhD in Linguistics (Forensic Phonetics) – University of Huddersfield

Memberships

Member of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA)

Member of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians (BAAP)

Member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (MCSFS)

Notable Example Cases & Trials

Case A: Murder case tried at Leicester CC; produced multiple enhancements and transcripts for prosecution and gave oral evidence in person.

Case B: Murder trial at the Old Bailey; produced reports/transcripts for defence and gave oral evidence at admissibility hearing via videolink.

Case C: SEROCU investigation into multiple drug offences; produced two reports on voice comparisons for prosecution and gave oral evidence at Winchester CC.

Case D: Online child abuse trial at Preston CC; produced report on voice comparisons for prosecution and gave oral evidence in person.

Case E: Family proceedings at Swansea County Court; produced report on voice comparisons and gave oral evidence via videolink.

Case F: Robbery case tried at Durham CC; produced report on voice comparisons for prosecution; guilty pleas entered.

Publications

- Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K. & Nuttall, B. (2024) Manging Bias Risks - Information Management Strategies for Forensic Speech & Audio Analysis. *IJSLL 31.2 - Professional Practice Report*.
- Gold, E., Earnshaw, K. & Ross, S. (in-press) Within-speaker Variation. *Oxford University Press Handbook of Forensic Phonetics* (forthcoming) – McDougall, Nolan & Hudson (eds.)
- Gold, E., Kirchhübel, C., Earnshaw, K. & Ross, S. (2021). Regional variation in British English voice quality. *English World-Wide*.
- Earnshaw, K. (2021). Examining the implications of speech accommodation for forensic speaker comparison casework: A case study of the West Yorkshire FACE vowel. *Journal of Phonetics* 87.
- Earnshaw, K. & Gold, E. (2019). “We don’t pronounce our t’s around here”: realisations of /t/ in West Yorkshire English, *In Proceedings of ICPHS 2019*. Melbourne.
- Leemann, A., Blaxter, T., Britain, D. & Earnshaw, K. (2019). The FACE of change in English dialects: 1950 v 2018, *In Proceedings of ICPHS 2019*. Melbourne.
- Ross, S., Earnshaw, K. & Gold, E. (2019). A cautionary tale for phonetic analysis: the variability of speech between and within recording sessions. *In Proceedings of ICPHS 2019*.
- Earnshaw, K. & Gold, E. (2018). Variation in the FACE vowel across West Yorkshire: Implications for forensic speaker comparisons, *In Proceedings of Interspeech 2018*. Hyderabad.
- Gold, E., Ross, S. & Earnshaw, K. (2018). The ‘West Yorkshire Regional English Database’: Investigations into the Generalizability of Reference Populations for Forensic Speaker Comparison Casework. *In Proceedings of Interspeech 2018*. Hyderabad.
- Gold, E., Earnshaw, K. & Ross, S. (2016). An Introduction to the West Yorkshire Regional English Database (WYRED). *In Transactions of the Yorkshire Dialect Society*.

Presentations (selected)

- Nuttall, B., Earnshaw, K. & Rhodes, R., (2026) Checking Procedures. Roundtable discussion on Checking Procedures; IAFPA conference, Trier, Germany.
- Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K. & Nuttall, B. (2025) Quality Matters. Special session on Quality Management; IAFPA conference, The Hague, The Netherlands.
- Earnshaw, K., Nuttall, B., Rhodes, R. & Thomas, M. (2024) Communicating Expert Evidence. *IAFPA conference*. Montreal, Canada.
- Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K. & Nuttall, B. (2024) Forensic Phonetics in the UK: provision & the regulatory position, recent cases, and our approach at the FVC. *IAFLL conference*. UK.
- Rhodes, R., Earnshaw, K., Nuttall, B., Murray, E. & French, J. P. (2023) Casework procedures and Information Management Strategies. *IAFPA conference*. Zurich, Switzerland.
- Earnshaw, K. (2019). Should we pay more attention to the interlocutors in forensic speaker comparison casework? *IAFPA conference*. Istanbul, Turkey.
- Gold, E., Earnshaw, K. & Ross, S. (2018). WYRED: West Yorkshire Regional English Database. *BAAP conference*. Kent, UK. [Poster]
- Earnshaw, K. (2017). Phonetic accommodation in British English: Implications for forensic speaker comparisons. *SLE conference*. Zurich, Switzerland.
- Earnshaw, K. (2017). Investigating regional variability of the FACE vowel within West Yorkshire Regional English. *UKLVC 11*. Cardiff, UK. [Poster]
- Gold, E., Ross, S. & Earnshaw, K. (2017). Delimiting the West Yorkshire population: Examining the regional-specificity of hesitation markers. *IAFPA conference*. Split, Croatia.
- Earnshaw, K. (2016) Assessing the discriminatory power of /t/ and /k/ for forensic speaker comparison using a likelihood ratio approach. *IAFPA conference*. York, UK. [Poster]

Security Clearance

Current clearance - SC - NPPV level 2+3