Member Biographies

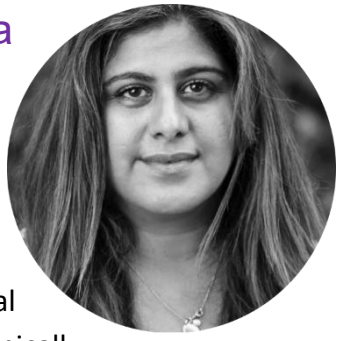
Professor Shane Johnson (MBE)

Co-Chair Home Office Science Advisory Council

Professor Shane Johnson (MBE) is the Director of the Dawes Centre for Future Crime at University College London (UCL)(2016 - present), Co-Director of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Centres for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity (2019 - present) and Cyber-Physical Risk at UCL (2025 - present). Professor Johnson is interested in how technological change informs new opportunities for offending and approaches to crime reduction. His research on future crime, secure by design, and what works to reduce crime has been funded by a variety of sponsors including the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), EPSRC, British Academy, and the Dawes Trust. He has published over 160 articles on future crime (e.g. threats associated with biotechnologies, the internet of things, connected autonomous vehicles, and cryptocurrencies), cybercrime, designing out crime, what works to reduce crime, and space-time patterns of crime.

He is a member of the Science Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute, and an editorial board member of the journals Criminology, Research in Crime and Delinquency, and Journal of Quantitative Criminology. He received a Police Chief's Commendation in 2015 and an MBE in 2024.

Professor Tushna Vandrevala



Co-Chair Home Office Science Advisory Council

Professor Tushna Vandrevala is a Chartered Health Psychologist with research expertise in health inequalities. Tushna has gained national recognition for her research in health inequalities, health promotion, risk perception, health communication and behavioural change for underserved and hard-to-reach communities (ethnically diverse groups, migrant) and those at lifespan transitions (such as pregnant women, older people). Her work considers how health communication and health promotion can be tailored to understand and mitigate risk and reduce health inequalities.

Professor Vandrevala has a long-standing interest and expertise in inclusivity, equality, diversity, and inclusion, and expertise in co-design and participatory research, developing and evaluating outreach interventions with real world relevance. She regularly advises the government on issues relating to social and behavioural science, health communications, health inequalities and wider issues relating to migration.

Professor Christina Boswell

Christina Boswell FBA is Professor of Politics at the University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on two main areas: (1) the role of science and expert knowledge in policymaking, including her influential work on the instrumental and legitimising functions of expert knowledge in policy; and (2) UK and European immigration policy, including comparative analysis of labour migration and immigration control in European countries. She has held a series of advisory roles for governments and international organisations including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Commission, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and the UN High Commission for Refugees.

Since settling in Edinburgh in 2006, she has helped build analytical capacity on migration issues in Scotland, through setting up and chairing the Scottish Government's Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population, and as inaugural chair of the think tank Migration Policy Scotland. Professor Boswell has extensive experience of leading research, innovation and impact across multiple disciplines, in her role as Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at the University of Edinburgh (2022-25) and as Vice President for Public Policy at the British Academy (2021-26). She is Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academy of Social Sciences, and the British Academy.

Professor Dave Delpy (CBE)

Professor Dave Delpy (CBE) is currently Emeritus Professor of Medical Photonics at UCL. He studied Applied Physics at Brunel University then spent two years in industry, before going to UCL, working on sensors for monitoring infants and adults in intensive care. He is best known for developments of NIR Spectroscopy and Imaging of brain oxygenation. Many companies have marketed these devices and with colleagues he successfully spun out a company (finally sold to Philips Medical).

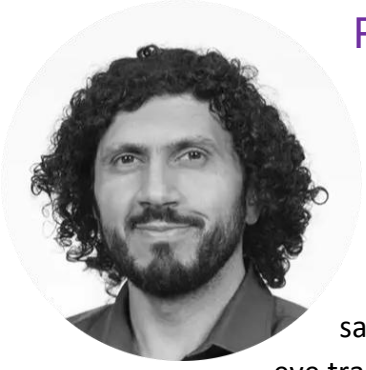
At UCL, he was Head of Department, then Research Vice Provost. He was CEO of the EPSRC (2007-2014), Chair of the MoD's Defence Scientific Advisory Council (2014-2017) and Chair of the National Quantum Technologies Programme Strategic Advisory Board (2014-2019). He is currently a member of the Home Office Science Advisory Council, Brunel University Council, Institute of Physics (IoP) Honorary Treasurer and Chair of IoP Publishing Board. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering, and Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Paul Grasby

Professor Paul Grasby is a Research to Practice Fellow at the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats and holds an Honorary Professorship in the School of Government and Society, University of Birmingham. He is a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and his current research interests are the application of social and behavioural science to terrorism and counter terrorism responses. From 2008 to 2016, Professor Grasby led a team of social scientists undertaking counter terrorism research and analysis in the Home Office. Prior to joining the Home Office, he held a Professor of Psychiatry post at Imperial College for many years.

Professor Mateja Jamnik

Professor Mateja Jamnik is Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Cambridge. She is developing AI techniques for human-like computing. Here, she combines AI reasoning with machine learning techniques to advance the explainability of AI systems and applies them to personalised medicine and tutoring systems. Professor Jamnik served as specialist adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on AI. She chaired the European Research Council Starter Grant panel. Professor Jamnik is passionate about bringing science closer to the public and engages frequently with the media and public science events. Her active support of women scientists was recognised by the Royal Society which awarded her the Athena Prize.



Professor Mohamed Khamis

Professor Mohamed Khamis is a Reader in Computing Science at the University of Glasgow, where he leads the SIRIUS Lab, internationally recognised for pioneering work at the intersection of Human-Computer Interaction, privacy, and cybersecurity. His research investigates human-centred approaches to security and safety across emerging technologies such as extended reality (XR), eye tracking, and ubiquitous computing.

Professor Khamis' research has exposed novel threats to privacy, security and safety, such as child safety risks in the metaverse and thermal imaging attacks and designing and implementing innovative mitigation tools that are both technically robust and practically deployable.

Professor Tom Kirchmaier

Professor Tom Kirchmaier is an Economist by training, and the Director of the Policing and Crime research group at the Centre for Economic Performance of the London School of Economics. He and his group are focusing on understanding the full spectrum of questions relating to policing and crime using data from the police, with a special focus on Police Organisational Efficiency, Demand Prediction, Organised Crime, including anti-money laundering (AML), Domestic Abuse, as well as Serious Violence. Methodologically, he is supplementing the Econometric toolkit with AI models focusing on object recognition in pictures from satellites to drones and CCTV.

Professor Michael Levi

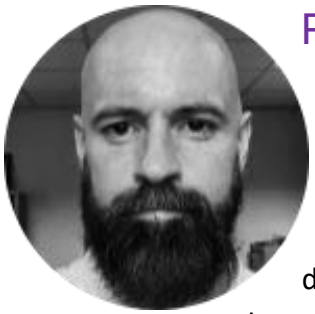
Professor Michael Levi has been Professor of Criminology at Cardiff University since 1991. His main work since 1972 has been making sense of the linkages and differences between white-collar and organised crime and their public and private sector controls, intersecting with fraud, corruption, money laundering and terrorism locally and transnationally. He has major lifetime and other research prizes from the British, European and American Societies of Criminology, the lifetime Tackling Economic Crime Award in the UK 2019, and the UNODC/Al Thani Corruption Research and Education prize 2020. He is a Senior Associate Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute and of RAND Europe.

Professor Levi's work includes a review of fraud investigation, prosecution and trial for the Royal Commission of Criminal Justice, and of asset recovery and organised crime legislation for the Home Office. Internationally, he has been scientific expert on organised crime for the Council of Europe and a member of the EU Expert Group on Corruption. He is currently a member of the Law Society's Economic Crime Task Force, of the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime and of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, and a Director and Trustee of the Fraud Advisory Panel.

Professor Nik Lomax

Professor Nik Lomax is Professor of Population Geography at the University of Leeds, with broad research interests in migration, demographic change, population projections and health. Professor Lomax works at the interface between academia and business in his role as the Co-Director of the Consumer Data Research Centre, and as the Director of the Heathy and Sustainable Places Data Service, which provides unique insight into a diverse range of societal and economic challenges utilising consumer and other commercial datasets. He is an expert in demographic methods, providing assurance and guidance on the methodology underpinning ONS statistical production and research via the Methodological Assurance Review Panel. Nik leads the synthetic data work of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funded Policy Modelling for Health programme. He represents a global community of geographers as the chair of the Applied Geography Commission of the International Geographical Union.

Professor Nick Lord



Professor Nick Lord is Professor of Criminology in the School of Social Sciences at The University of Manchester. He is the Director of the Centre for Digital Trust and Society (CDTS), which is a focal point for research that explores aspects of trust and security in the digital world and delivers the Digital Futures research platform theme Digital Trust and Security. He is also a co-founder of the Manchester Organisational Non-Compliance Initiative (MONI), a research team focused on enhancing our understanding of the dynamics of economic crimes and business.

His research contributions centre on three inter-related areas of scholarship: (Inter)national corruption and fraud, and their regulation by criminal justice and state regulatory systems, as well as potential victims and third-party actors (business and individuals); Exploring empirically and conceptually the organisation of serious crimes for gain, in particular ‘white-collar crimes’, ‘organised crimes’, illicit financial flows and money laundering, as well as their digital underpinnings; and the transfer of social scientific modes of analysis and thinking into the operational responses of fraud enforcement authorities. He teaches in the areas of white-collar and corporate crimes, financial and economic crimes, business compliance and regulation, serious and organised crimes, and criminological research.

Professor Helen Margetts (OBE)

Professor Helen Margetts (OBE) is Professor of Society and the Internet at the University of Oxford, and Director of the Public Policy Programme at the Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. She has researched and written extensively about the relationship between technology, politics, public policy and government. She has presented her work all over the world and is passionate about maximizing the policy impact of her research. In 2018 she was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to social and political science.

Dr Lucy Mason

Dr Lucy Mason is a Director at Capgemini UK PLC where she leads on innovative technologies for the public sector, with expertise in AI ethics, policy and regulation. A former civil servant, she is the founder and first head of the Government's Defence and Security Accelerator (now UK Defence Innovation). Lucy is a member of the Government's Regulatory Horizons Council and led their work on the future regulation of space technologies.

Dr Mason is also Chair of the Advisory Boards for the Bath University Institute for Digital Security and Behaviour and for the SPRITE+ networks and is a Visiting Professor at Cranfield University.

Professor Sarah Morris

Professor Sarah Morris is a leading expert in digital forensics and the Deputy Head of the School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton. With over 16 years of academic and investigatory experience, her interests include investigating unusual devices, digital data recovery, data privacy, and document analysis. She has performed digital investigations for a wide range of global clients including law enforcement, civil, corporate, media organisations and celebrities.

An advocate for public engagement, Professor Morris champions inclusion in computing and electronics. She is also an active volunteer for charities and public initiatives supporting victims of control, bullying, and mental health for digital forensic investigators. She serves on national and international advisory boards, including the Science and Technology Ethics Advisory Committee and the UK Police Science Council under the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for Policing at the National Police Chiefs' Council.

Dr Rowland Seymour

Dr Rowland Seymour is an Assistant Professor in Statistics at the University of Birmingham and a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow. His research focuses on the development of Bayesian statistical methods to estimate the prevalence and risk of criminal behaviour, as well as behaviours associated with them. The applications of Dr Seymour's work have spanned modern slavery, forced marriage, honour-based abuse, online child sexual abuse, and exploitation of individuals with cognitive impairments. He has worked extensively with local government across the UK, developing initiatives to improve community safety, child welfare, and multi-agency collaboration in safeguarding vulnerable populations.

Professor Laura Smith

Professor Laura Smith is a Professor of Psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Bath. She is a social psychologist, interested in the psychology of social influence, including polarisation, radicalisation and how they affect the mobilisation of groups and individuals. Her work emphasises the threats and risks and opportunities associated with digital technologies, including AI. She applies her expertise to understanding online harms, including adversarial information campaigns, and the mobilisation of both legal and illegal forms of behaviour, ranging from protests to violence.

Professor Smith founded and is co-Director of the Bath Institute for Digital Security and Behaviour, which integrates expertise from behavioural, social, and computer science to take a whole of society approach to digital security. She is a member of the Cabinet Office National Risk Assessment Behavioural Science Expert Group (BSEG), and of the Strategic Advisory Team for the EPSRC Security and Resilience theme. She was joint Chief Editor of the British Journal of Social Psychology from 2020-2022.

Professor Gabriella Spinelli

Professor Gabriella Spinelli is Reader in Healthcare Design and Innovation at the Brunel Design School, College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences. Her research, spanning over two decades, focuses on Human Factors and User-Centred Design applied to complex socio-technical systems, with over 60 peer-reviewed journal and conference publications. Her research portfolio includes interdisciplinary projects across the public and third sectors. Notable projects include the analysis of police command and control room operations in collaboration with the National Police Intelligence Agency; long-term research on technology adoption and inclusive product design for ageing populations; and the development of intuitive product-service systems for later life. She has led applied research into community currencies and their role in reimagining social care and sustainable economic exchange, as well as the development and evaluation of digital complementary currencies aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In healthcare, her work includes the design and evaluation of inclusive, intuitive, and sustainable medical products.

Professor Spinelli's current research centres on strategic design and regulatory innovation in digital health. She is Principal Investigator of RADIANT-CERSI (Centre for Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation) in Transformative Digital Health and AI, funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and leads additional programmes on innovation leadership in the NHS, inclusive participation in clinical trials for sustainable health innovation models. She is named inventor on two medical device patents and co-founder of a start-up focused on women's health.

Mr Ollie Whitehouse (FREng)

Mr Ollie Whitehouse' (FREng) career in cyber security has spanned more than 27 years prior to becoming the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) Chief Technology Officer in late 2023. He has held senior science and technology advisory roles to the UK government for the last decade, including serving as the current Chair for the DSIT Cyber Technology External Advisory Group. Prior to joining the NCSC Ollie had an extensive career within the private sector including his most recent roles as Chief Technical Officer at NCC Group, non-executive Director to PortSwigger and Interrupt Labs and adviser to 1011 Venture Capital.

At the NCSC, Ollie is responsible for maintaining the NCSC's status as the National Technical Authority for cyber security and is influential in diversifying the pipeline of expert talent and anticipating the technological capabilities of tomorrow.

Associate Members

Professor Brian Bell

Chair of the Migration Advisory Council

Professor Brian Bell is a Professor of Economics at King's Business School, a faculty of King's College London. He joined KCL in 2017, following 4 years as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Oxford University and a Tutorial Fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. He is a Research Associate at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics.

Professor Bell is a leading labour economist who is widely published, and his work on immigration has included papers examining the progress of immigrants in the labour market in the UK, and the impact of immigration on crime in the UK. He has also worked extensively outside academia, including at the Bank of England, the International Monetary Fund, and in several financial companies in the UK.

Professor Bell has previously served as a member of the Police and National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Bodies. Professor Bell was appointed chair of the Migration Advisory Committee in July 2020.

Professor Charles Deakin (LVO)

Chair of the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons Expert Committee

Professor Charles Deakin (LVO) is a Consultant in Cardiac Anaesthesia and Cardiac Intensive Care at University Hospital Southampton where he was appointed in 1999. He is also Professor of Resuscitation and Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine at the University of Southampton.

Professor Deakin has been involved with pre-hospital care since 1993, having flown with the London Air Ambulance and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, and is the Divisional Medical Director of South Central Ambulance Service. He is also a member of the NPCC First Aid Clinical Panel and the resuscitation lead for the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC) that sets paramedic clinical practice guidelines. He was an author of the recent Royal College of Emergency Guidelines on the management of patients with acute behavioural disturbance and has a particular interest in cardiac electrophysiology in relation to conducted energy device safety.

Professor Richard Guest

Chair of the Science and Technology Ethics Advisory Committee

Professor Richard Guest is currently Professor of Biometric Technologies at the University of Southampton. He has an internationally recognised and sustained research record in biometric and forensic systems, security, image processing and feature pattern recognition, securing over £7M of external funding over the past 25 years. He has significant research leadership as Principal Investigator of several large national and international projects including EU Marie Słodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks, EU and UKRI projects.

He is the appointed Chair of the UK Home Office Science and Technology Ethics Advisory Committee and a member of the Home Office Science Advisory Committee. He is also the Training and Education Lead for the European Association for Biometrics and has had active involvement with ISO/IEC standardisation processes around biometric data interchange, used in worldwide deployments. Before joining Southampton, he held numerous senior leadership posts at the University of Kent including Deputy Divisional Director and Head of School of Engineering.

Dr Sally Robinson

Chair of the Animals in Science Committee

Dr Sally Robinson has a PhD in Chemistry and Pharmacology from the University of Liverpool. She has a breadth of experience in relation to animal research through roles predominantly within the pharmaceutical industry but more recently in academia. She has over 20 years of experience of implementation of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) at local and international level, and promotion of a culture of care and governance through Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies (AWERB) with over 30 publications on these topics.

Dr Robinson has experience of chairing a wide range of committees or expert working groups with diverse membership. For example, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) Research and Animal Welfare group, UK NC3Rs expert working groups and panels, and AWERBs. Most of Dr Robinson's working life was at AstraZeneca within safety assessment as a toxicologist within both the regulatory and investigative areas. She was then Senior Director of the Animal Sciences and Technology team and the Establishment Licence Holder. She led a global pharmaceutical company initiative with NC3Rs to remove the requirement for acute toxicity studies from the development of new medicines, leading to a revision of the International Council of Harmonisation (ICH) M3 guidelines, and received an international award for the enhancement of animal welfare for this work. More recently, Dr Robinson completed a master's in medical ethics and law.

Professor David Wood

Chair of the Advisory Council of the Misuse of Drugs

Professor David Wood is a Professor of Clinical Toxicology and Consultant Physician at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, King's Health Partners and King's College London. He is the chair of the Trust's Drug and Therapeutics Committee and co-chair of the Medicines Safety Committee, and one of the vice chairs of the Southeast London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (SEL IMOC). He is also a clinical co-ordinator at the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NECPOD), and in January 2026 was appointed by the Minister for Crime and Policing on behalf of the UK government as the Chair of the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). Professor Wood's influence extends internationally as an expert adviser to the European Union Drugs Agency, World Health Organisation, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and he also has a distinguished research and academic history.