

1st Michele Taruffo Girona Evidence Week

Call for Papers

Evidence & Proof: Expert Evidence and Evidential Reasoning

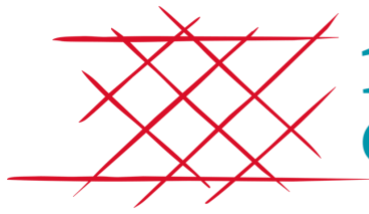
(Workshop)

Organisers & participants:

- Dr Kyriakos N. Kotsoglou (Northumbria University – U.K.)
- Professor Tony Ward (Northumbria University – U.K.)
- Professor Alex Biedermann (University of Lausanne – Switzerland)
- Professor Paul Roberts (University of Nottingham – U.K. / CUPL – Beijing, China)
- Professor Carole McCartney (Northumbria University – U.K.)

This full-day workshop which will be part of the 1st Michele Taruffo Girona Evidence Week, aspires to increase understanding of complex legal issues in the field of expert evidence with a particular focus on the alleged “crisis” of forensic science and its use in the criminal justice system, as identified by several blue-ribbon committee reports. A primary focus of the workshop – in line with the general theme of the Conference – will be an analytical approach to the inferential structures underpinning expert witness testimony (and pre-trial reports) on the one hand, and assessment of evidence on the other hand. The former include among other things

- the (misconceived) decisional nature of reports and testimony of forensic scientists
- a critical assessment of recent proposals to tackle forensic identification issues with methods borrowed from machine learning (and, A.I.)
- the psychiatrists’ assessment of symptoms in judgments about mental capacity.



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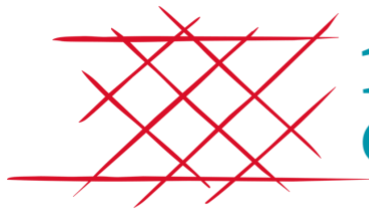
The latter include the relations between the pronouncements of forensic scientists and the evidence assessment or decisions of fact-finders (professional judges or jury). The overarching goal will be to stimulate discussion between participants and workshop organisers on ways to enable sound and mutually intelligible communication between experts and decision-makers.

We welcome contributions on issues related to forensic science or other scientific or nonscientific forms of expert evidence (in either a criminal or civil context) and papers drawing on other disciplines such as psychology and argumentation theory as well as law.

Please submit a) your abstract (max 500 words), and b) a short CV by 31 January 2022 to the following email address: kyriakos.kotsoglou@northumbria.ac.uk. Following the selection process, successful applicants will be notified by 15 February 2022. Please note that the deadline for the official registration of workshop participants is 28 February 2022. More information about the registration process is available on the Conference's website: <http://www.gironaevidenceweek.com>.

The working language of the workshop will be English.

For general enquiries please contact us at the abovementioned email address.

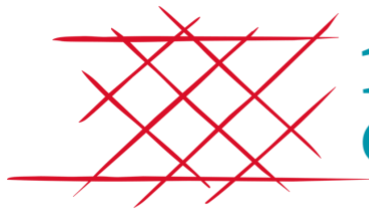


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Kyriakos N. Kotsoglou joined Northumbria University as a Senior Lecturer in Law in September 2019. Previously he held academic positions in Lausanne (2019), Liverpool Hope (2016-2018) and Freiburg/Germany (2011-2016). Kyri is a Criminal Evidence and Criminal Law scholar with a special interest for evidence & proof and (analytic) legal theory. Kyri's scholarly work has been cited extensively by the most authoritative commentaries on the German Penal Code and Criminal Procedure. His analysis on criminal evidence has been cited by the German Federal Court of Justice (BGH). The Greek Court of Appeal (Athens) has cited and quoted extensively his work on DNA-evidence in a high-profile case, which led to the acquittal of a (falsely) convicted appellant. Kyri is currently working on the doctrinal and normative framework underlying expert witness testimony, the various issues around reverse onus clauses and the use of statistical evidence in criminal process. He is author of over 50 peer reviewed articles and two monographs: *Forensic Epistemology* (2015, Duncker & Humblot, in German); *DNA Evidence in the Criminal Process* (2021, Nomiki Vivliothiki, in Greek).

Tony Ward has been a Professor of Law at Northumbria University in 2016. His interests as a legal scholar focus on the law of evidence and in particular on expert evidence in both criminal and civil cases, drawing on historical and philosophical work on experts. He is also a criminologist specialising in state crime. i.e. violence and corruption by governments and officials. He is Co-Director of the International State Crime Initiative and one of the Editors-in-Chief of its journal *State Crime*. He is co-author with Penny Green of *State Crime: Governments, Violence and Corruption* (Pluto 2004) and *State Crime and Civil Activism* (Routledge, 2019), and with Gerry Johnstone of *Law and Crime* Sage (2010).

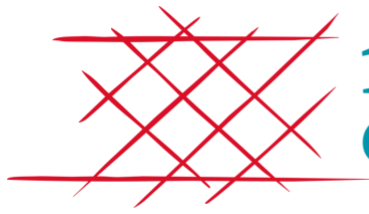
Alex Biedermann, Ph.D., is Associate Professor (since 2016) at the School of Criminal Justice of the Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration of the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). Alex's Ph.D. thesis focused on



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graphical models and probabilistic inference for evaluating scientific evidence in forensic science (2007). Alex conducted visiting research stays in the US, the UK, Australia and Italy. He teaches scientific evidence interpretation and decision analysis at the University of Lausanne, with previous visiting appointments at partner institutions in China (China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing) and Australia (University of Adelaide Law School). Alex currently is the principal investigator of the project NORMDECS (Normative Decision Structures of Forensic Interpretation in the Legal Process, www.unil.ch/forensicdecision), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (2016–2021). This project aims at conceptualising and substantiating forensic inference, both on a theoretical and practical account, as an integral part of a wider framework for coherent decision analysis in the law. Alex is a committee member of the Statistics and Law Section of the Royal Statistical Society (UK) and a councillor of the International Association of Evidence Science.

Carole McCartney is Professor of Law and Criminal Justice, School of Law, Northumbria University, where she is co-convenor of the Science and Justice Research Interest Group. Previously at the University of Leeds, and Bond University, Australia, Carole has written on miscarriages of justice, international policing cooperation, and DNA, forensic science and criminal justice more widely. She currently teaches and researches in the areas of criminal law, criminal evidence, forensic science and biometrics. Prof McCartney has published a monograph on forensic identification, edited two books, and published 30 peer reviewed articles or book chapters on issues pertaining to forensic science, policing and criminal justice, and miscarriages of justice. She is an advisor to the APPG on Miscarriages of Justice and the UK Government Biometrics Working Group and has given evidence to Select Committees on forensic science, technology in policing and the Criminal Cases Review Commission. She sits on the editorial boards of *Police Science and Management*; *Forensic Science International: Synergy*, and *Wrongful*



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Convictions Law Review, and is the Convenor of the cross-faculty Science and Justice Research Interest Group at Northumbria University.

Paul Roberts is Professor of Criminal Jurisprudence, University of Nottingham School of Law, UK, and Adjunct Professor of Law, China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), Beijing. He is a graduate of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and a Fellow of the British Academy. Roberts researches and teaches in the areas of criminal procedure and evidence, forensic science, criminal justice and legal theory, with a particular emphasis on comparative, international and philosophical perspectives. He has served as an advisor to the Law Commissions of England and Scotland, to the Crown Prosecution Service, and to the UK Forensic Science Regulator. Current publications include Roberts and Zuckerman, *Criminal Evidence* (OUP, 3/e 2022); Roberts and Stockdale (eds), *Forensic Science Evidence and Expert Witness Testimony* (EE, 2018); and Hunter, Roberts, Young and Dixon (ed), *The Integrity of Criminal Process* (Hart, 2016). In addition to a dozen books and major research reports, Roberts has published over 100 other articles, essays, notes and reviews in law, criminology, philosophy and forensic science books and journals.