

Dr Richard Danbury

MA (Hons, Cantab), Dip Law, M Stud (Oxon), D Phil (Oxon), Barrister (Lincoln's Inn)

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I teach investigative journalism at master's degree level, and am an academic lawyer, award-winning journalist and a former practicing barrister (trial lawyer). I have extensive experience training and teaching journalists and other professionals around the world in journalism and media law. I have trained investigative journalists for Channel 4, and designed their MA investigative which runs at De Montfort University. I now run the MA in the same subject at City, University of London. I have been the BBC's advanced legal trainer for over a decade. My areas of academic research are international and comparative media law, with a particular interest in freedom of expression and copyright. My PhD is from Oxford University and is in media law, and my post-doc was at Cambridge University and was in copyright and news.

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Experience – current activity

Senior Lecturer and director of MA in Investigative Journalism at City St George's, University of London
2019 – present

Board Member, Internews EU
2022 - present

Associate Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Legal Affairs, University of London
2015- present

Advisory Board, Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy, Cambridge University
July 2020 – present

Member, Scott Trust Review Panel, *The Guardian*, Guardian Media Group
2017- present

Associate Member, Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, Cambridge University
2016- present

Member, Academic community of the Global Network Initiative,
Oct 2016-present

Advanced media law trainer for the BBC Academy
2010 – Present

Experience – past activity

Advisor, Central European University (CEU)'s [Democracy Institute](#) (DI) project to prepare an accreditation roadmap for MA programme development in Investigative Journalism, together with the University Goce Delcev (UGD) in North Macedonia.
September 2023

Senior International Expert adviser to OSCE, Presence in Albania, in relation to modernising the undergraduate degree in journalism offered by the University of Tirana.
Feb 2020- Nov 2020, June 2021-2023

Consultant, University of Tirana, Albania. I was asked by the East-West Management Institute, a development NGO funded by USAID and the FCO, to advise on the setting up of an MA in investigative journalism: February 2019 – Jan 2020.

Investigative Journalism Training Scheme, Channel 4 television: coordinator
2013 – 2020

Expert interviewee in international media law, Thomson Foundation online training for environmental journalists. March 2021

Advisory Committee, Price Moot Court Competition Oxford University
June 2019 – 2021

International Consultant, Council of Europe project to advise Serbian judiciary on communicating with the Media Nov – Jan 2020

Council of Europe Pool of Consultant (Freedom of Expression Law)– Project with the Constitutional Court of Kosovo June 2019

Visiting Lecturer, LLM Cambridge University Information Law paper, freedom of information law. 2014 – 2020

Principal Lecturer then Associate Professor, Investigative Journalism, De Montfort University, Leicester
Setting up a new MA in investigative journalism for Channel 4
2016 – Oct 2017; Oct 2017- 2019

Trainer in international media law, International Senior Lawyers' Project, (associated with Media Institute for Southern Africa, Zimbabwe and Law Society of Zimbabwe), Strategic media law litigation workshop, Harare, Zimbabwe,
April 2019

Advisory Panel, Consultant, Programme for Comparative Media Law and Policy, Oxford University
2017

Research Associate

Research associate on the AHRC project Appraising Potential Legal Responses to Threats in the Production of News in the Digital Environment.
Principal Investigator, Professor Lionel Bently, and Professor Ian Hargreaves of Cardiff University.
April 2014 – 2016

Researcher, Ranking Digital Rights

October 2013- March 2014

RDR is a project that intends to develop a system for ranking ICT companies according to the extent to which they pay regard to freedom of expression and privacy. I coordinated research undertaken on Vodaphone, and the extent to which they complied with the Ruggie Principles - the UN guidelines on business and human rights.

Fellow

Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University,,: [*Can I Really Report that? The Decline of Contempt of Court.*](#)

2007

Producer (etc.)

April 1999 – 2008 (fulltime, afterwards freelance)

- *BBC Election Night programme* – Sub-hub producer, 2024
- *Channel 4's Alternative Election Night* (TX 12/12/19) Producer
- *Britain Decides: Everything by Brexit Debate* (TX 8/12/19) Producer
- *Live: Britain's Next PM – The C4 Debate* (1 x 90', 16th June 2019, ITN Productions for Channel 4) Consultant Producer.
- *Channel 4' Election Night programme* (1 x 12 hours - 7th-8th May 2017, ITN Productions for Channel 4) – Jeremy Paxman producer.
- *The Battle for Number 10* – interview with Prime Minister and leader of the opposition (2 x 30', Sky / Channel 4) – Jeremy Paxman producer - 2017
- *Europe: the final debate with Jeremy Paxman* (1 x 90', ITN productions for Channel 4) consulting executive producer, 2016
- *The Battle for Number 10* – interview with the Prime Minister and leader of the opposition (1 x 120' Sky for Sky/Channel 4) Jeremy Paxman producer, 2015
- *The EU Debate* (Farage/ Clegg debate BBC 2) deputy editor 2014
- *Men's Hour* (various x 60', Tonic Productions for BBC Radio 5 live, series producer and executive producer) 2011-2013
- *BBC World Debate* (1 x 60', BBC World News), producer 2010
- *Prime Ministerial Debate* (1 x 90', BBC1), deputy editor 2010
- *College of Journalism* (1 x 15' and conference organization), 2008
- *Newsnight* (various, BBC1), senior broadcast journalist, news editor 2007
- *Panorama* (various, BBC1), assistant producer 2006
- *Happiness Formula* (2 x 30' BBC2), assistant producer / producer 2005 – 06
- *Paxman Interviews* (3 x 30', BBC1), producer 2005
- *Mark Lawson Talks to...* (14 x 30', 1 x 60' BBC 4), producer 2004 – 05
- *Panorama* (various, BBC1), assistant producer / associate producer 200–04
- *Newsnight* (various, BBC2), broadcast journalist 2000 – 03
- *Rough Justice* (1 x 60', BBC1), researcher 1999 – 2000
- *Crimewatch* (2 x 15', BBC1), researcher 1999
- *Trial by Jury* (3 x 60', BBC2), researcher 1999

Author (freelance, non-academic work)

Co-author, *Rough Guide to Chile*, First edition, 1998-1999

Author, *The Inca Trail*, Trailblazer Publications, 1997-1998

2/1998 – 2/1999

Barrister and pupil-barrister

Third six pupil, then barrister, Chambers of Edmund Lawson QC, 9-12 Bell Yard, (now Foundry Chambers) 08/1995-12/1997. I was a trial advocate specializing in criminal law, defending and prosecuting a variety of offences. My pupil supervisors were Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, Michael Egan (now QC), and Mukul Chawla (now QC).

1994 – 1997

Pupil Barrister at Chambers of Robert Seabrook QC (now Richard Booth QC), 1 Crown Office Row, I completed a 12 month pupillage in general common law, with a particular emphasis on divorce and medical negligence. My pupil supervisors were David Balcombe (now QC), and Margaret Bowron (now QC).
10/1994-8/1995

Aid worker - teacher

Mctothoyi High School, Ilovo Beach, Natal, South Africa. I was placed by Amazimtoti YMCA and the UK NGO, Link Africa, now Link Community Development, as part of an education development project. I taught English Literature at matric level (A level) to about 500 Zulu students.
1992

Education

DPhil

Oxford University, Green Templeton College
25/3/10- 8/4/14 (I suspended my studies for two terms to take up the post of deputy editor on the 2010 BBC *Prime Ministerial Debate*) [*The 'Full Liberty of Public Writers': Special Treatment of Institutional Journalism in English Law.*](#)
2007 – 2014

Master of Studies, Law,

1/10/08 – 17/11/09: [*The 'Full Liberty of Public Writers; special treatment of institutional journalistic speech in English Law.*](#)

Vocational Course for the Bar

Inns of Court School of Law
Very competent
10/1993-13/10/1994

Common Professional Examination

(Postgraduate Diploma in Law),
College of Law, London
Pass
10/1992 –6/1993

Bachelor of Arts, hons (BA)

Cambridge University, Magdalene College
Philosophy, Part I 2.2, Part II 2.1
10/1988 – 29/6/1991 (MA 13/5/1995)

Publications, etc

R Danbury 'The EU Press Publisher's Right is Too Broad: What Can be Done About it?' (2022) 44 EIPR 1, 20-26

R Danbury. 'Why Article 15 of the Directive on Copyright in the Single Digital Market is a bad idea' European Intellectual Property Review, Issue 11, 2021

R Danbury, 'The Role of Audiences in Television Leaders' Debates and Political Journalism' in Morrison J, Birks J, Berry M (eds), *Routledge Companion to Political Journalism* (Routledge, 2021)

R Danbury, 'Freedom of Expression and Protecting Journalists' Sources', in L Bollinger and A Callamard (eds), *Regardless of Frontiers? Freedom of Expression and Information in the 21st Century*, (Columbia University Press, 2021)

R Danbury, 'Investigative Journalism and Terrorism: the Proactive Legal Duty to Report', in S Price (ed), *Investigative Journalism: Global Perspectives*, (Routledge, 2019)

R Danbury and J Townend, 'Can You Keep a Secret? Legal and Technological Obstacles to Protecting Journalistic Sources', in S Price (ed), *Investigative Journalism: Global Perspectives*, (Routledge, 2019)

R Danbury, 'Where Should Speech be Free? Conceiving Liberal Theories of Free Speech', in M Price and N Stremlau *Speech and Society in the Digital Age*, (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

J Townend and R Danbury, *Protecting Sources and Whistleblowers in a Digital Age*, Information Law and Policy Centre, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, supported by Guardian News and Media, 2017

R Danbury, *Is an EU publishers' right a good idea?* (Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law University of Cambridge, working paper, 2016)

R Danbury, *News, copyright and free speech* (Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law University of Cambridge, working paper, 2015)

R Danbury, *Appraising potential legal responses to threats to news in the digital era, draft second report: evaluating the proposal that copyright should be used to assist the commercial news industry* (Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law University of Cambridge, working paper, 2015)

R Danbury, *Appraising potential legal responses to threats to the production of news in the digital era: a comparative analysis of recent national copyright interventions* (Centre for Intellectual Property and Information law University of Cambridge, working paper, 2014)

R MacKinnon, E Hickok, A Bar, H Lim, *Fostering Freedom Online: The Role of Internet Intermediaries*, UNESCO Series on Internet Freedom UNESCO, 2014. (I was a UK researcher on this comparative law project.)

R Danbury, *Can I Really Report That? The Decline of Contempt*. (Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 2007)

R Danbury, *The Inca Trail*, (Trailblazer Publications, 1st to 4th editions 1999- 2005)

M Graham and R Danbury, *The Rough Guide to Chile*, (Rough Guides, 1st edition 1999)

Selected blogs

Copyright & news

<http://copyrightblog.kluweriplaw.com/2021/04/28/the-dsm-copyright-directive-article-15-why-and-why-not-part-i/>

<http://copyrightblog.kluweriplaw.com/2021/04/29/the-dsm-copyright-directive-article-15-what-part-ii/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191004195141/https://global.asc.upenn.edu/copyright-and-the-news-in-the-eu/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191005034337/https://global.asc.upenn.edu/can-copyright-save-news-and-should-it/>

FOI

<https://infolawcentre.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2018/10/26/knowledge-isnt-power-knowledge-helps-you-flourish/>

Constitutional law & journalism

<https://verfassungsblog.de/journalistic-independence-the-bbc-and-the-government-of-the-day/>

<https://verfassungsblog.de/the-bbc-and-henry-viii-s-heirs/>

<https://verfassungsblog.de/is-the-uk-government-undermining-the-bbc/>

Source protection

<https://theconversation.com/trump-is-right-stories-will-dry-up-if-the-press-cant-use-anonymous-sources-73558>

Privacy

<https://ukconstitutionallaw.org/2018/07/25/richard-danbury-cliff-richard-and-private-investigations/>

Conference papers, chair of sessions, academic advisor etc.

2023

Surveillance and Data Security, panel chair. Information Law and Policy Centre annual conference, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London 18/11/23

2022

What on Earth is the Facebook Oversight Board? Centre for Intellectual Property and Information law, research day, Cambridge University, 5/7/22

2021

Comparative freedom of expression law and investigative journalism, Pompeu Fabra University, 'Intersections between Journalism, Law, and Rights' 25/11/21

2019

Is there a global norm of journalistic source protection? Conference paper at Canterbury Christ Church University, 'Normative Developments in International Law', 25 June 2019

What's the philosopher Joseph Raz got to do with 'Panorama's' viewing figures?, Presentation delivered at the Communication, Media and Journalism Research Seminars, Sheffield University, 26th February 2019

Whistleblowers and Journalism. Presentation delivered at the workshop *Whistleblowing and the Public Interest: Regulatory Standards and Sectoral Variation*, Edinburgh University School of Law, 18th January 2019

2018

Misinformation: what, where, who, why when? Paper delivered at the symposium 'Symposium on Misinformation: Technology, Elections and Democracy', Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University, Delhi, India. 23-25th November

2018

Media and elections: is the information society distorting democracy? Panel member, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University, 35th Anniversary Weekend for the Reuters Institute Fellowship Programme, 8th September 2018

Norm Formation, Legitimation, Power and Change Panel member, Annenberg Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, 30th July 2018

Mr Butkevich, and the expanding Article 10

Paper delivered at Columbia University Global Freedom of Expression's conference, *Justice for Free Expression*, April 25 and 26 2018, New York, USA.

2017

Arranged the international conference '[A global onslaught on existing speech norms and institutions: coping with hate speech, fake news and online violent extremism](#)' for the Programme for Comparative Media Law and Policy, Oxford University, 2 April 2017.

2016

News and copyright

Paper delivered at The British Literary and Artistic Copyright Association meeting, 10 November 2016

Arranged the international conference '[Copyright, related rights and the news in the EU: Assessing potential new laws](#)' for the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, University of Cambridge at IViR, University of Amsterdam, 23 April 2016. Delivered an introductory paper. Details, including a transcript and a recording, are available [online](#).

Copyright and the news in the EU: are we, could we, should we?

Paper delivered at the European University Institute, Florence, Conference '2016 Annual Scientific Seminar on Economics, Law and Policy of Communications and Media: Competition and Regulation in Infrastructure and Digital Markets

2015

Copyright and the flow of news

Paper delivered at Sheffield University, December 2015

Paper on copyright and news

Information Society Project, Yale University, November 2015

Paper on copyright and news

Centre for Global Communication Studies, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, November 2015

Chair of session entitled 'New Trends in Digital Rights'

Peking-Oxford-Stanford Internet Law and Policy Conference, Oxford University, November 2015

Arranged a workshop in London at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies to discuss copyright interventions and the news industry, November 2015. Details available [here](#).

A shilling or a pint of wine

Paper delivered at the 10th anniversary conference of CIPIL, University of Cambridge, October 2015

Chair of session entitled 'The Changing Landscape for Search Engines after Google Spain'

Cambridge University Centre for European Legal Studies, Conference "EU Internet Regulation After Google Spain" 27th March 2015

A shilling or a pint of wine? Copyright and the flow of news

Paper presented at the launch seminar for the Information Law and Policy Centre, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London University, February 2015

2014

Saving news? Comparative legal responses to threats to the business of news in the digital environment

Paper presented at Peking University – Stanford University – Oxford University Internet Law and Public Policy Conference, 22 – 23rd November 2014

Evaluating legal responses to threats to news in the digital environment

Paper delivered at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Workshop- Expert Panel 'Copyright and News Reporting' Towards new business models and legal regulations? , 14th November 2014. Published in 'Copyright and News Reporting: Towards New Business Models and Legal Regulations?', edited by Javier Diaz Noci, Journalism and Digital Communication Research Unit, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2016

Poster 'Appraising potential legal responses to threats to the production of news in a digital era'

CREATe 'All Hands' Conference, Glasgow, September 2014

Evaluating legal responses to threats to news in a digital environment

Paper delivered at British Academy / The Queen's College, Oxford University. Pedagogy and the Academy Today: the Challenge of Research and Teaching in Early Career. 30th September 2014

Freedom of expression, privacy and the role of internet companies

Paper delivered at Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, Centre for Global Communication Studies, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania and Programme for Comparative Media Law and Policy, Oxford University 10th July 2014

Advisor and participant in workshop *Media Law and Policy Curriculum Development*, National Law University, Delhi, India, 16th February 2014, which developed an online resource for the study of and research into comparative media law and policy (available here: <http://ccgtlr.org>)

2013

The Leveson Inquiry: A transition in media freedom

Paper delivered at Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, Centre for Global Communication Studies, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania and Programme for Comparative Media Law and Policy, Oxford University 27th June 2013

Sowing dragons' teeth: A right of Press freedom

Paper delivered at Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, W G Hart Legal Workshop 2013, *The Constitution of the Public Sphere: the post-Leveson Landscape* 25th June 2013

2012 and earlier

Chair and moderation of sessions entitled: 'How is and how should Data Protection be reconciled with Freedom of Expression?' and 'What should be the future shape of transnational governance regimes in this area?'

OxPILS (Oxford Privacy Information Law and Society), Centre for Social Legal Studies, Oxford University, *The 'Right to be Forgotten' and Beyond: Data Protection and Freedom of Expression in the Age of Web 2.0*, 12th June 2012

The 'Full Liberty of Public Writers': special treatment of journalism in English law

Paper delivered at Green Templeton College, second year doctoral presentations, 8th June 2011

Practical experiences of investigative journalism under English anti-terrorism laws

Paper delivered at New York University, Prague and Respekt conference *Media Freedom and Responsibility in the Age of Terrorism of Global Reach*, 30th November 2007

Audio-visual publications

See above for the numerous pieces of long and short form television and radio journalism I have produced and been involved in the production of, for over fifteen years.

Teaching, etc

Co-trainer, Strategic Media Law Litigation, Harare Zimbabwe, at a two-day seminar in April 2019, organized by the International Senior Lawyers' Programme and the Media Institute for Southern Africa- Zimbabwe, and hosted by the Law Society of Zimbabwe. I taught an introduction to international freedom of expression and press freedom law, and various practical aspects of strategic litigation.

Co-supervisor of the PhD of Ruona Meyer, who is investigating the use of technological networks by investigative journalists in Africa: 2019 – 2020.

Responsible for designing and delivering an MA in investigative journalism at De Montfort University, 2016 - 2019

Freedom of Information law, part of the information law paper on the LLM, Cambridge University, 2014 to 2020.

Annual seminars at the Wolfson Press Fellowship, Wolfson College, Cambridge University, 2014 to 2020.

Assisted in the media module on the Masters in Public Policy MA, Cambridge University Oct 2014, Oct 2015

Delivered Seminars at the Annenberg- Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, Programme for Comparative Media Law and Policy, Oxford University, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018.

Freelance media law trainer for journalism.co.uk
2013 – 2018

Attended Oxford University's Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford (Law) seminars, Sept 2012

Assisted in undergraduate law tutorial on freedom of expression, Hertford College Oxford University, February 2011

Freelance media law trainer, teaching practitioners media law for journalism.co.uk, 2013 – 2018

Media law trainer for the BBC College of Journalism, BBC Academy, teaching BBC journalists media law, 2010 – present

External examination

External Examiner to Edinburgh University in the following undergraduate law papers: Freedom of Expression Law Clinic, Advertising and the Law of Commercial Speech (Honours), Media Law; 2016- present

External Examiner to Edinburgh University LLM, international and European Media law, May 2018 - present

Other

Volunteer judge, Monroe Price Media Law Moot Court Competition, Oxford University, 2011-present.

Awards

Royal Television Society 2008, innovative news award

Production team member - interview producer: "10 days to War", *Newsnight*

Royal Television Society 2005, home current affairs award

Production team member - associate producer: "A Fight to the Death", *Panorama*

New York Festivals 2004, bronze medal

Production team member - producer: "Medicating to Execute", *Newsnight*

Nominated: **Mind Media Awards 2012, factual entertainment award, and speech radio award**

Production team member – executive producer and producer: *Men's Hour*, Tonic Productions for BBC Radio 5live