

## **CV: Dr Lauren Harrington**

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### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- White Rose DTP ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, University of York** **Oct 2025-Sep 2026**  
*ESRC-funded postdoctoral fellowship scheme*
- Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of York** **Jun 2024-Sep 2025**  
*ESRC-funded project 'Person-specific automatic speaker recognition'*

### **EDUCATION**

- PhD in Linguistics, University of York** **2020-2024**  
Thesis: *Towards improving transcripts of audio recordings within the criminal justice system*  
Supervisors: Dr Vincent Hughes, Dr Richard Rhodes  
Examiners: Dr Tina Cambier-Langeveld, Dr Amelia Gully
- MSc in Forensic Speech Science, University of York** **2018-2019**  
Dissertation: *An investigation into the efficacy of disfluency analysis as a parameter for forensic speaker comparisons*  
Supervisor: Dr Richard Rhodes
- BA in French and Linguistics, University of York** **2014-2018**

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- Department of Language & Linguistic Science, University of York** **2024-2025**  
***Postdoctoral Research Associate***  
Project: "Person-specific automatic speaker recognition: understanding the behaviour of individuals for applications of ASR" funded by ESRC (ES/W001241/1; £1,012,570)  
Supervisor: Dr Vincent Hughes  
→ Managed and developed materials for a Forensic Voice Comparison method validation exercise  
→ Tested the performance of an Automatic Speaker Recognition system under multiple conditions and created a resource for automatically calculating error metrics from software output  
→ Organised a corpus of audio recordings for public release, including metadata management via a relational database  
→ Collaborated with industry partners at Oxford Wave Research and the Netherlands Forensic Institute
- Department of Language & Linguistic Science, University of York** **2023-2025**  
***Co-Investigator***  
Project: "Panjabi-English in Bradford and Leicester - creating a resource for practitioners and testing automatic transcription with non-Anglo speech" funded by International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics  
Co-Investigator: Dr Jessica Wormald  
→ Developed a novel methodology for the manual correction of automatic transcripts  
→ Managed the workload and tasks of the Research Assistant
- Research Hub for Language in Forensic Evidence, University of Melbourne** **2023-2023**  
***Research Assistant***  
Project: "Transcription of indistinct audio: are phoneticians at an advantage?" funded by AHRC  
White Rose College of Arts and Humanities

Supervisor: Professor Helen Fraser

→ Conducted an online transcription experiment in collaboration with Professor Helen Fraser and Dr Debbie Loakes

→ Attended and contributed to Transcription Masterclasses run by the Research Hub for Language in Forensic Evidence

**Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Aston University**

**2021-2022**

**Research Assistant**

Project: "Evaluating human and automated transcripts of speech recordings: implications for forensic linguistics" funded by Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics

Supervisors: Dr Robbie Love, Dr David Wright

→ Tested 20 commercial automatic transcription systems on forensically-realistic audio

**GRANTS & FUNDING**

**ESRC White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership Postdoctoral Fellowship** **2025-2026**

12 month fellowship aimed at consolidating PhD and career development (£106,412.72)

**University of York Place and Community Knowledge Exchange Fund** **2025-2025**

Knowledge Exchange Workshop for government and police stakeholders in collaboration with Dr James Tompkinson, Dr Jessica Wormald and Dr Eloísa Monteoliva García (£2000)

**International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics Travel Bursary** **2024-2024**

Conference attendance at the 2024 IAFL conference in Birmingham, UK (£500)

**International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics Research Grant** **2023-2025**

Research project in collaboration with Dr Jessica Wormald (£1500)

**White Rose College of Arts & Humanities Researcher Employability Project Funding** **2023-2023**

Research trip to the University of Melbourne, Australia (£2770)

**White Rose College of Arts & Humanities Large Award** **2023-2023**

Conference attendance at the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic (£1128)

**AHRC Competition Studentship (White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities)** **2020-2024**

Fees and full UKRI stipend for PhD research (41 months)

**University of York MSc in Forensic Speech Science bursary** **2018-2019**

Contribution towards tuition fees (£3500)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of York** **2020-2024**

PG 2023-2024: Research in Forensic Speech Science, Sociophonetics

UG 2022-2024: Forensic Phonetics

UG 2020-2022: Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Harrington, L.** (2025). *The use of transcripts in the criminal courts*. Written evidence (POL0002) for House of Lords Public Services Committee inquiry on police transcription.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/146939/pdf/>

**Harrington, L.,** Hughes, V., Harrison, P., Foulkes, P., Wormald, J., Kelly, F. & van der Vloed, D. (2025). Variability in performance across four generations of automatic speaker recognition systems.

*Proceedings of INTERSPEECH 2025*. [https://www.isca-archive.org/interspeech\\_2025/harrington25](https://www.isca-archive.org/interspeech_2025/harrington25)

[interspeech.pdf](#)

- Hughes, V., **Harrington, L.**, Harrison, P., Kelly, F., van der Vloed, D. & Rhodes, R. (2025). Validation of forensic voice comparison by human analysts using the auditory-acoustic approach. *OSF Preprints*, 2 April 2025. [https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/bzun3\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/bzun3_v1)
- Harrington, L.** & Rhodes, R. (2024). Survey on forensic transcription practices. *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, 31(2). <https://doi.org/10.3138/ijssl-2024-0034>
- Harrington, L.** (2024). Towards improving transcripts of audio recordings in the criminal justice system. *PhD thesis*, University of York. <https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/35134/>
- Harrington, L.** & Hughes, V. (2023). Automatic speech recognition: system variability within a sociolinguistically homogenous group of speakers. In: R. Skarnitzl, & J. Volín (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences – ICPhS 2023* (pp. 3131-3135). International Phonetic Association. [https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/icphs-proceedings/ICPhS2023/full\\_papers/593.pdf](https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/icphs-proceedings/ICPhS2023/full_papers/593.pdf)
- Harrington, L.** (2023). Incorporating automatic speech recognition methods into the transcription of police-suspect interviews: factors affecting automatic performance. *Frontiers in Communication*, 8 (Capturing Talk). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2023.1165233>
- 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. <https://doi.org/10.1558/ijssl.20214>

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- Harrington, L.** (2025). *Introducing the International Network for Forensic Transcription: initial plans and overall aims*. Work-in-progress poster presented at 2025 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Harrington, L.**, Hughes, V., Harrison, P., Foulkes, P., Wormald, J., Kelly, F. & van der Vloed, D. (2025). *Variability in the performance of automatic speaker recognition systems across modelling approaches*. Paper presented at 2025 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Wormald, J., **Harrington, L.**, Tompkinson, J. & Monteoliva García, E. (2025). *Engaging with Government and Police stakeholders regarding the use of speech technology in UK investigative interviewing*. Poster presented at 2025 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Hughes, V., **Harrington, L.**, Harrison, P., Kelly, F., van der Vloed, D. & Rhodes, R. (2025). *Validating the auditory-acoustic phonetic method for forensic speaker comparison*. Poster presented at 2025 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Harrington, L.**, Wormald, J., Buckley, T. & Harrison, P. (2025). *Automatic transcription: overcoming challenges to support use in law enforcement*. Poster presented at the 2025 UK and Ireland Speech Workshop, York, UK.
- Harrington, L.**, Hughes, V., Harrison, P., Foulkes, P., Wormald, J., Kelly, F. & van der Vloed, D. (2025). *Variability in the performance of automatic speaker recognition systems across modelling approaches*. Poster presented at the 2025 UK and Ireland Speech Workshop, York, UK.
- Buckley, T., Hughes, V., Foulkes, P., Harrison, P., Wormald, J., **Harrington, L.**, Kelly, F. & van der Vloed, D. (2025). *Addressing a variety of real-world vocal mismatches in speaker recognition systems*. Poster presented at the 2025 UK and Ireland Speech Workshop, York, UK.

- Harrington, L.** (2024). *Towards improving methods of transcription in the criminal justice system*. Paper presented at 2024 Conference of the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics, Birmingham, UK.
- Harrington, L.** (2023). *The effect of listener accent background on the transcription of speech in noisy recordings*. Paper presented at 2023 Conference of the British Association for Applied Linguistics, York, UK.
- Harrington, L.** & Hughes, V. (2023). *Automatic speech recognition: system variability within a sociolinguistically homogenous group of speakers*. Poster presented at 2023 International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Harrington, L.** & Rhodes, R. (2023). *Forensic transcription: a survey of expert transcription practices in Europe and North America*. Paper presented at 2023 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Fraser, H., Loakes, D., Knoch, U. & **Harrington, L.** (2023). *Towards accountable evidence-based methods for producing reliable transcripts of indistinct forensic audio*. Paper presented at 2023 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Gerlach, L., Carroll, L., Fairclough, L., Gibb-Reid, B., **Harrington, L.**, Lee, D.D., Lieb, A., Möller, S., Patman, C., Paver, A., Schäfer, S., Siewert, M., Suthar, N., Valenzuela Farías, M.G., Williams, S., Brown, G. & Kirchhübel, C. (2023). *Learning by doing: an example of casework-relevant training in forensic speech science*. Poster presented at 2023 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Harrington, L.** (2022). *A forensic-phonetic analysis of automatic speech transcription errors*. Paper presented at 2022 International Symposium on Applied Phonetics, Lund, Sweden.
- Harrington, L.**, Love, R. & Wright, D. (2022). *Analysing the performance of automated transcription tools for indistinct audio recordings*. Poster presented at 2022 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Harrington, L.** (2022). *Style variability in disfluency production: a forensic perspective*. Paper presented at 2022 Colloquium of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians, York, UK (online).
- Harrington, L.** (2021). *The effect of regional accent on transcription performance in humans and machines*. Work-in-progress poster at 2021 Conference of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, Marburg, Germany (online).
- Harrington, L.** & Rhodes, R. (2021). *An investigation into the efficacy of disfluency analysis as a parameter for forensic speaker comparisons*. Paper presented at 2020 Colloquium of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians, York, UK (online).

#### **OTHER TALKS**

- Harrington, L.** (2025). *Lost in the machine: can AI handle dialects in police interviews?* The York English Language Toolkit, University of York, UK, 11 July 2025.  
<https://englishlanguagetoolkit.york.ac.uk/case-studies/automatic-transcripts>
- Harrington, L.** (2025). *Incorporating speech technology into policing practices: A linguistic perspective*. Celebrating Spaces: Connecting Researchers, University of York, UK, 3 July 2025.
- Wormald, J. & **Harrington, L.** (2025). *Using automatic speech recognition to transcribe minoritised varieties of English*. International Association for Forensic Phonetics & Acoustics webinar series, 11 April 2025.

Fraser, H., Loakes, D. & **Harrington, L.** (2023). *Misunderstanding mishearing: Why linguistic science is needed to cure serious injustice in our criminal justice system*. Linguistics in the Pub, University of Melbourne, Australia, 28 March 2023.

**Harrington, L.** (2023). *Transcription of indistinct audio: are phoneticians at an advantage?* Languages and Linguistics seminar, University of Melbourne, Australia, 24 March 2023.

Fraser, H., Loakes, D. & **Harrington, L.** (2023). *Can the new generation of automatic speech recognition systems solve problems of forensic transcription – and what does the process of answering this question teach us about the human language capacity?* Monash Linguistic Seminar Series, Monash University, Australia 21 March 2023.

**Harrington, L.** (2022). *The effect of regional accent on human and machine transcription performance*. Language Sandwich seminar, Nottingham Trent University, UK (online), 18 May 2022.

**Harrington, L.** (2022). *Style variability in disfluency analysis for forensic speaker comparison*. PaSS Reading Group, University of Zurich, 17 May 2022.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Applying linguistic research to investigative interviewing and transcription of police interviews**

1. University of York, 27 June 2025
2. Accelerated Capability Environment, London, 11 September 2025  
→ In collaboration with Dr James Tompkinson, Dr Jessica Wormald and Dr Eloísa Monteoliva García  
→ Attended by UK government and police stakeholders

### **Forensic transcription practices**

- International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics webinar series, 10 November 2023  
→ In collaboration with Dr Richard Rhodes  
→ Attended by forensic practitioners and academics

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Postgraduate dissertation supervisor** **2025-pres**

Department of Language & Linguistic Science, University of York

**Conference organising team (Programme chair/Reviewer)** **2025-2025**

UK & Ireland Speech Workshop 2025, University of York

**Co-chair of Early Career Forum** **2024-pres**

Department of Language & Linguistic Science, University of York

**Mentor to PhD student** **2024-pres**

Department of Language & Linguistic Science, University of York

**Student representative** **2022-2023**

International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Praat, Python, R, LaTeX, SQL