



Government
Statistical Service

GSS Conference 2017 Speaker Biographies

John Pullinger

John Pullinger started as the National Statistician, Head of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority on 1 July 2014. He was previously Chair, and Vice-Chair, of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). In this capacity John was greatly involved in the development of measures for the Sustainable Development Goals.

John's career began in 1980 when he joined the civil service after graduating in geography and statistics from Exeter University. After several statistical roles in different departments, John joined the Central Statistical Office as a senior civil servant in 1992. He was the project manager for the creation of the Office for National Statistics and was the policy lead on the development of the GSS. He has worked on diverse projects and topics, including responsibility for flagship publications like 'Social Trends', leading the neighbourhood statistics programme as well as being actively involved in the creation of the Statistics Commission and National Statistics in 2000.

In 2004, John became the 14th librarian to the House of Commons. He continued to be involved in the statistical community and took up the presidency of the Royal Statistical Society on 1 January 2013.



Tom Smith

Tom is managing director at the UK government's Data Science Campus, which explores how new data sources such as earth observation data, images and social media can help us better understand the economy and society. A data addict with 20 years' experience using data and analysis to improve public services, Tom originally trained as a physicist with a PhD in training neural networks for robot control.

Before joining government, Tom was co-founder and chief executive of OCSI, a research and data 'spin-out' company from the University of Oxford that has worked with 100s of government agencies, including leading the government's Indices of Deprivation used to allocate more than £1 Billion per year.

He is vice-chair of the Royal Statistical Society Official Statistics section, previously chair of the Environment Agency Data Advisory Group, and member of the Open Data User Group ministerial advisory group.



Tracey Brown

Tracey Brown OBE Director, Sense about Science

Tracey Brown has been the director of Sense about Science since 2002.

Under her leadership, the charity has turned the case for sound science and evidence into popular campaigns to urge scientific thinking among the public and the people who answer to them. It has launched important initiatives including AllTrials, a global campaign for the reporting of all clinical trial outcomes; and the Ask for Evidence campaign, which engages the public in requesting evidence for claims.

In 2010, the Times named Tracey as one of the ten most influential figures in science policy in Britain and in 2014 she was recognised by the Science Council for her work on evidence-based policy making. In June 2017 Tracey was made an OBE for services to science.



Sarah Henry

Sarah joined the Office for National Statistics in 2017 from Manchester City Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority where she developed evidence and innovative analysis that informed many local decisions as well as the mayoral devolution deals.

Championed innovations include a ward level population forecasting model to enable planning of crucial local services, pioneering linking datasets to inform safeguarding services and early interventions and prevention and a spatial forecasting model to predict 'urban flow' in partnership with Ordnance Survey. At ONS she is the Director of Methods, Data and Research and leads the office's strategy to bring in datasets, prepare them for the production of statistics and make them available for research inside and outside the office.

Sarah is passionate about using data for public good and ensuring that the national data asset is utilized to describe and explain the society and the economy. Data have the power to save lives and fuel the economy but to do so reliably they must be used safely and responsibly, ensuring the analysis is based on sound methods and privacy is protected.



Claire Melamed

Dr Claire Melamed is the Executive Director of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, headquartered in Washington, DC.

She is based in London and was previously a Managing Director at the Overseas Development Institute, has worked for a number of international NGOs, the United Nations, and taught at the University of London and the Open University.

She can be found on Twitter at [@clairemclamed](https://twitter.com/clairemclamed)



David Spiegelhalter

David Spiegelhalter is Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk and Fellow of Churchill College at Cambridge University. His background is in medical statistics, particularly the use of Bayesian methods in clinical trials, health technology assessment and drug safety.

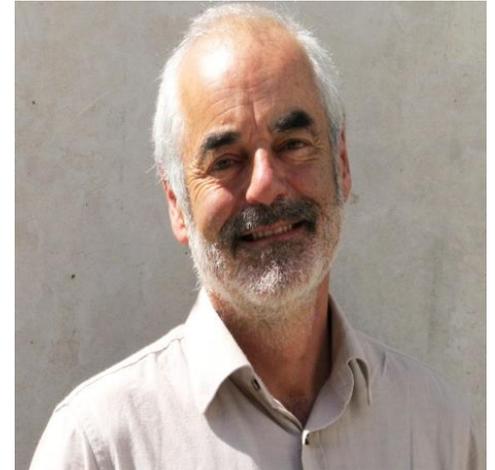
As Chair of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication, he works to improve the way in which risk and statistical evidence are taught and discussed in society. He gives many presentations to schools and others, advises organisations and government agencies on risk communication, and is a regular commentator on current risk issues. He presented the BBC4 documentaries *'Tails you Win: the Science of Chance'* and the award-winning *'Climate Change by Numbers'*, and in 2011 came 7th in an episode of *Winter Wipeout* on BBC1.

He has over 200 refereed publications and is co-author of 6 textbooks, as well as *The Norm Chronicles* (with Michael Blastland) and *Sex by Numbers*. He is a Fellow of Churchill College Cambridge, an Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Risk Management, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 2005. He has contributed to many formal investigations, including the inquiries into Bristol children's heart surgery, Harold Shipman's murders, and the breast implant scandal.

He was awarded an OBE in 2006 and knighted in 2014, both for services to medical statistics.

Twitter: [@d_spiegel](https://twitter.com/d_spiegel)

Website: [David Spiegelhalter's home page](#)



Professor Maria Fasli

Maria Fasli is a Professor of Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence) and the Director of the Institute for Analytics and Data Science (IADS) at the University of Essex. She obtained her BSc in Informatics from the Technological Education Institute of Thessaloniki in 1996, and her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Essex in 2000. She has held research and academic positions at the University of Essex since 1999 and became Professor in 2012.

In 2009, she became the Head of the School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering at Essex, a post which she held until the end of 2014. In August 2014, she was appointed in her current role as Director of IADS. In 2016, she was awarded the first UNESCO Chair in Analytics and Data Science.

Her research interests lie in artificial intelligence techniques for analyzing and modeling complex systems and structured and unstructured data in various domains. Her research has been funded by National Research Councils in the UK, InnovateUK as well as businesses.

Maria has published over 120 papers in the field of artificial intelligence and has been involved in organising international research events and conferences. She is also passionate about education and pedagogic innovation and in 2005, she was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy (UK) for her innovative approaches to education.



Daniel Hulme

Daniel is the CEO of Satalia, a company that provides Artificial Intelligence (AI) inspired solutions to solve industries hardest problems. He is also the Director of UCL's Business Analytics MSc, applying AI to solve business and social problems.

Daniel is a popular public speaker specialising in the topics of Philosophy, Technology, Innovation and Organisational Design. He is a serial TEDx speaker and a speaker for the Singularity University.

Daniel has a Masters and Doctorate in AI from UCL, he lectures in Computer Science and Business, and is passionate about how technology can be used to govern organisations and bring positive social impact.

Daniel is the co-founder of ASI Data Science and has Advisory and Executive positions in many companies. He holds an international Kauffman Global Entrepreneur Scholarship and actively promotes positive entrepreneurship and technology innovation across the globe.



Gurleen Popli

Gurleen is a Lecturer in the Department of Economics. She has a B.A. (Economics) from University of Delhi, a M.A. (Economics) from Delhi School of Economics and a Ph.D (Economics) from University of California, Riverside.

She joined the Department of Economics at Sheffield in September 2004, having previously taught at universities in the UK and the USA.

Gurleen is Director of Research at the [Institute for Economic Analysis of Decision-making \(InstEAD\)](#) at the University of Sheffield.

