

Data innovator joins City team

By Mared Gruffydd

One of the country's leading data journalism teachers has joined City from Cardiff University.

Glyn Mottershead joined the journalism department as Senior Lecturer in June last year and runs a series of data journalism courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

He is also co-chair of the European Data and Computational Journalism Conference, which will be held this summer in London. The two day conference will bring together both journalists and academics from across the globe.

Mottershead said: "There are exciting things happening globally and we at City have to keep up with new developments. Things change, the industry changes, and unless we change with it, we're going to get left behind."

Originally from Manchester, the Senior Lecturer worked as a journalist for local newspapers before

going into teaching. After completing a Master of Science degree for E-learning Technologies at the University of Portsmouth, he became a lecturer in Digital Journalism at Cardiff University's journalism school.

Mottershead worked at Cardiff for 12 years, during which he co-designed a new journalism master's course, MSc Computational and Data Journalism.

When it comes to teaching, Mottershead's aim has always been to make data journalism as comprehensible as possible.

He said: "Most journalists come from an arts and humanities background and we're all terrified of numbers. But as soon as you start realising that numbers are just another way to represent people doing things, it becomes a lot easier."

"Data journalism is not an armchair sport – you find the interesting facts and figures and then you go away to talk to people, just like any

other kind of journalism."

Mottershead has already changed various aspects of the data journalism module at City, including its structure and its weekly lectures, making them "more practical and less academic".

One example of this is bringing in multiple guest lecturers to speak to students. This year, these have included Caelainn Barr, *The Guardian's* Data Projects editor, and Allan Smith, Head of Visual and Data Journalism at the *Financial Times*.

Plans are currently underway to develop the module further, and more esteemed guests are already lined up for next year.



Image: City, University of London

Mottershead said: "I want the guest speakers to be as diverse as possible because our students are diverse."

"I make a conscious effort to make sure that we're looking at issues from as wide a perspective as possible. I think we're doing people a disservice if we narrow down our focus."



Image: Richard Danbury

Former barrister and award-winning TV producer heads up Investigative MA

By Eleanor Howard

Prior to this, he coordinated Channel 4's *Dispatches* Investigative Journalism Training Scheme for which he often recruited City students.

Dr Danbury said: "I'm naive and idealistic but I think ultimately investigative journalism is finding things which don't work in our society and trying to fix them using tools which aren't available to other people."

"The internet has been a great disruptor, for good and for ill. It means that there are now a greater variety of outlets through which the work can be done.

The bad thing is that it has fragmented attention so it's difficult to get the same impact from publishing a piece because people are paying attention to lots of information flows."

Dr Danbury practised as a criminal barrister before joining the BBC where he worked for a decade on programmes such as *Newsnight* and *Panorama*. While at the BBC he was part of teams that won two Royal Television Society Awards and a New York Festivals medal. He then went freelance, and has worked for Channel 4, Sky

and ITN.

He said: "There is a line that runs through everything I've done. It looks mad when you read it on paper but it makes sense to me."

Dr Paul Lashmar, Head of Journalism, said: "Richard has a fantastic reputation. He's a very experienced practitioner, and very usefully, he has been a barrister. So he's an expert on media law, which is essential in investigative journalism."

The new head of Investigative MA replaced Heather Brooke, who left in May 2019.

An award-winning investigative journalist and former criminal barrister has taken charge of the Investigative Journalism MA at City.

Dr Richard Danbury joined City in September 2019 from DeMontfort University where he established and ran their Investigative Journalism MA.