

DEMOCRACY & TECHNOLOGY EXPERT • COALITION BUILDER • MULTI-SECTOR LEADER

Globally recognised thought leader on the impact of social media and artificial intelligence on human rights and democracy, advising UK, EU and North American governments on necessary reforms to safeguard democratic systems and strengthen public interest journalism in the digital age. Proven nimble and empathetic leader with nearly two decades of experience in government, civil society and private sector, having developed and led teams of more than a dozen direct reports with significant budgets. Extensive experience starting, growing and sustaining powerful coalitions comprised of diverse, multi-sector stakeholders to increase policy and campaigning successes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder, Fair Vote UK, London, UK *November 2017-Present*

- Incorporated, staffed and built a transparency and democracy organisation to publish whistleblower evidence related to the Cambridge Analytica hacking scandal, growing the organisation from a staff of two to nine.
- Fundraised £500,000 in first two years, overseeing day-to-day budget and long-term strategic financial planning.
- Built and chaired the UK's first sector-wide, 100-member policy and campaigning coalition, leading development of a comprehensive, multi-sector advocacy strategy to lobby government on the Elections Act.
- Followed the Elections Act coalition model to build and chair a similarly structured 50-member coalition to lobby government on the Online Safety Act.
- Gave oral evidence to Parliament and advised MPs of every party on impact of social media and AI on democracy and elections.
- Maintain extensive network of journalists and government officials globally.

Founding Director, Real Facebook Oversight Board, Sept. 2020-February 2022

- Served as first project director for global Facebook accountability project set up in run-up to US 2020 Presidential Election and now aimed at global accountability.
- Managed board of 25 experts located around the world, including Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa, NAACP President Derrick Johnson and author Shoshana Zuboff.
- Developed and achieved consensus from the board on high-impact policy proposals related to regulating social media for governments around the world.
- Served as organisational spokesperson in broadcast and print.
- Managed regular press conferences with US, UK, and European media.

Executive Director, Hacked Off, London, UK *October 2018-August 2020*

- Led team of six through full organisation strategic review, overseeing the UK's largest public interest journalism campaign, with annual budget of £400,000.
- Managed relationships with high-powered board of directors including actor Hugh Grant, major donors, foundation partners and civil society groups.
- Developed organisation's first professional development program for staff members to enhance their skills and grow within their role and the organisation.

Chief of Staff, Simon Hughes MP, Minister for Justice, London, UK *Nov. 2012-July 2015*

- Led the campaigns, policy, and casework teams of more than a dozen direct reports for Sir Simon Hughes MP.
- Served as primary political advisor and gate-keeper to the minister, managing relations with government officials, civil servants, party leaders, staff and volunteers.
- Developed and oversaw office-wide restructure upon Sir Simon becoming a minister of state, responding to changing political realities of the coalition government.

Principal, Overton Group, London, UK Aug. 2015-Present

- Using an agile approach to design, I work with charities, political campaigns and companies to shift their window of possibility by applying political campaigning principals to traditional and digital communication, mobilisation, fundraising and marketing strategy.

Agent and GOTV Director, Sir Simon Hughes, London, UK April 2017-June 2017

- Served as Agent and GOTV director for Sir Simon Hughes in the Bermondsey and Old Southwark parliamentary constituency. Led a team that filled more than 1000 volunteer shifts on Election day, allowing us to knock on 60,000 doors and make 15,000 voter contacts in a single day. Despite a historic swing to the Labour party, we increased our vote count on previous election results.

Campaign Manager, North Carolina Coordinated Campaign, USA Sept. 2016-Nov. 2016

- Integrated movement politics organisations with candidate campaigns for North Carolina Governor, Attorney General and State House Representative, US Senate and President of the United States, coordinating a statewide campaign to drive a record number of voters to the polls. This helped secure the Governorship, Attorney General's office and five State House seats, despite losses up-ticket.

Business Development Manager, Inspired Adventures, Australia Aug. 2010-Nov. 2012

- Quadrupled year-on-year turnover targeting national and international charities including Amnesty International, Oxfam and UNICEF to build fundraising capacities through charity challenges that engaged more than 1,000 people per year and raised over \$10 million AUD.
- Led more than a dozen charity challenge events on 6 continents, guiding hundreds of people through their pre, during and post journey development.
- Streamlined business operations, driving efficiency and cost savings.

Global Representative, Ashoka's Youth Venture, Global Aug. 2006 – Dec. 2008

- Developed & secured funding for 5-continent, 15-country documentary tour.

BOARD AFFILIATIONS

- **Trustee**, [Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund](#)
 - One of the UK's leading cancer care information charities. As a trustee I drove transformation from analog to a digital-first organisation that is now an official partner of the NHS and MacMillan Cancer Support.
- **Steering Committee Member**, [Global Alliance Against Digital Hate and Extremism](#)
 - One of six global members that drives research and strategic campaigning for a global coalition of more than 100 organisations working on the intersection of disinformation, hate speech and societal fracturing, with strong government and industry relationships.
- **Featured Movement Actor**, [Mozilla Foundation AI Intersections Database](#)
 - Globally recognised thought leader on the intersection of AI, social media, and society.
- **Thought Leadership Member**, [Coalition for Independent Tech Research](#)

MEDIA, PRESS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- **Extensive on-camera experience** including [BBC](#), [ITV](#), [Sky News](#) and [LBC](#).
- **Op-ed writer published** in [The Independent](#), [Politics Home](#) and other publications.
- **Regularly speak at conferences** on AI, social media, democracy and regulation.

CITIZENSHIP & LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- **Citizenships:** United States, United Kingdom and Canada.
- **Language Proficiency:**
 - Intermediate Proficiency: French and Japanese
 - Beginning Proficiency: Spanish and Chinese

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

- ***Genocide, Insurrection and Democratic Decay: The Impact of Social Media on Human Rights and Democratic Systems and Regulatory Frameworks To Mitigate Harms in an AI future, 2024***
 - As a two-year visiting fellow at the Rotary Peace Centre in Tokyo, Japan, I conducted extensive research and published on the impact of social media and AI on human rights and democratic systems including:
 - Qualitative field research in Bangladesh, focusing on the role of social media in the genocide of Rohingya in Myanmar.
 - Qualitative field research in Australia, focusing on the impact of Meta's news turn-off following introduction of the News Media Bargaining Code and future AI implications.
 - Qualitative field research in the European Union, focusing on introduction, implementation and replication of the Digital Services Act and Artificial Intelligence Act.
 - Quantitative research in the UK investigating public perceptions of the impact of social media and AI on society and desire for government action, with over 5,000 participants.
- **[The Little Black Book of Artificial Intelligence](#)**: How big tech is making humanity redundant, *Byline Books, 2023*.
- **[The Little Black Book of Social Media](#)**: From innocent Tweeting to an attempted coup...how social media threatens our very way of life - and what you can do about it, *Byline Books, 2021*.
- **[Defending Democracy in the Digital Age](#)**, *Fair Vote UK, 2020*.
- **[Democracy in the Age of Pandemic](#)**, *Fair Vote UK, 2020*.
- **[Exploring Cyberspace](#)**: An introductory guide for children and parents about navigating and understanding digital spaces, *Harper Collins, 2021*.

EDUCATION

Graduate Study:

ICU, Peace Fellow, Rotary Peace Centre, Tokyo, Japan
M.A. Public Policy and Social Research, *July 2024*

London School of Economics, London, UK *Dec 2009*
MSc. International Politics & Communication (HM)
Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar

Undergraduate Study:

American University, Washington, D.C. *May 2006*
B.A. International Relations, Business Minor
B.A. International Media and Politics
Campaign Management Institute *January 2006*

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Lifelong competitive pool and ocean swimmer, including 42 km swim in Dover Channel.
- Avid hiker, having summited Mount Kilimanjaro twice and trekked to Everest Base Camp.
- Intrepid traveler, visiting more than 120 countries and all seven continents.

REFERENCES

- **Sir Simon Hughes**, Former Member of UK Parliament and Minister of State for Justice.
- **Jonathan Dibleby**, BBC Broadcaster and Chair of Richard Dibleby Cancer Fund.
- **Tamsin Allen**, Head of Media and Information Law Team at Bindmans, Former Board Member at Hacked Off and 2019 UK Solicitor of the Year for legal work related to Fair Vote UK.

BROADCAST MEDIA, PRINT MEDIA AND ADDITIONAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.