



Northumbria Centre for Responsible AI

Speakers

By order of appearance

	<p>Professor Marion Oswald, MBE Professor in Law and Academic Lead for the Northumbria Centre for Responsible AI <i>Northumbria University</i></p> <p>Professor Marion Oswald, MBE is a Professor of Law at Northumbria University, Academic Lead of the Northumbria Centre for Responsible AI and Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Emerging Technology and Security at The Alan Turing Institute. She is the chair of the West Midlands PCC and West Midlands Police Data Ethics Committee and a member of the Home Office Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group. She received an MBE in The Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours list 2022 for services to digital innovation and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Statistical Society in 2025 for her work integrating ethical principles into data science practice.</p>
	<p>Professor Andy Long Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive <i>Northumbria University</i></p> <p>Professor Andy Long is Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Northumbria University, where he leads the strategic direction of the University. Since taking on the role in 2022, he has brought a strong focus on innovation, research excellence, and social mobility— driving Northumbria's vision to enable people from all backgrounds to succeed and supports businesses and communities in the North East, London and beyond to thrive.</p> <p>Prior to joining Northumbria, Professor Long held several senior leadership positions at the University of Nottingham, including Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, where he led university-wide strategy, resource allocation, and oversaw all five faculties. He also served as Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Engineering, guiding it to national and international recognition.</p> <p>A globally respected researcher in polymer composites, Professor Long has published over 350 papers, led major multi-institutional research programmes, and secured more than £33 million in research funding. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and continues to play a prominent role in shaping national research and innovation policy through various advisory and leadership roles.</p>



Professor Graham Wynn

Pro Vice-Chancellor Education
Northumbria University

Professor Graham Wynn is the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at Northumbria University. He joined Northumbria in October 2021 and, prior to that, was the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Leicester.

Graham held a number of Department and Faculty roles at Leicester, including Head of Department of Physics and Astronomy. Between 2016 and 2020, Graham led the Education Excellence and Curriculum Transformation education enhancement programmes at Leicester, which involved full curriculum review of all taught programmes at the University. He has also held the role of Dean of Education for the College of Science and Engineering.

As PVC Education, Graham is responsible for leading and shaping the University's Education Strategy, enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the student experience and building a portfolio of high-quality, taught programmes that provide an excellent student learning experience and strong student outcomes. Graham leads the preparations and planning for the University's TEF submissions and other regulatory or sector-related returns, including the NSS.



Chi Onwurah MP

Member of Parliament
Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West

Chi Onwurah MP is a British politician representing Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West in the House of Commons. She was first elected in 2010 to represent Newcastle Central. She serves as the Chair of the House of Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee. Chi is a Chartered Electrical Engineer and before entering Parliament spent over twenty years working on engineering projects around the world. She has previously served as Head of Technology at Ofcom. Born in Wallsend, Chi attended Kenton Comprehensive School in Newcastle, where she was elected the school's 'MP' in mock elections aged 17.



Dr Kimberley Hardcastle

Assistant Professor in Business & Marketing
Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University

Kimberley is an Assistant Professor in Business & Marketing at Newcastle Business School (AACSB), Northumbria University, with a research focus on AI, algorithms, platforms, and consumer behaviour. In particular, her work centres on education and the societal impact of emerging technologies, specifically how AI and digital skills development can support inclusive, future-ready learning and regional workforce preparedness. In 2023, she organised the first *North East AI Safety Summit*, helping to establish a regional conversation on the responsible development of AI. She works closely with schools, councils and other regional partners to address the digital skills gap and support the North East's ambition to become a competitive, digitally resilient economy. Her research champions a citizen well-being approach to upskilling, digital inclusion, and ensuring that education systems are aligned with the needs of an AI-driven future. In addition to her published research, Kimberley is a contributor for the World Advertising Research Centre where she regularly writes about the impact of AI & evolving technologies.



Chris Simmonds

Assistant Professor in Law
Northumbria University

Chris Simmonds is an Assistant Professor in Northumbria Law School and a non-practising solicitor. Chris's research interests focus on professional education and how Artificial Intelligence can be integrated into existing pedagogic practices in order to improve the quality of the teaching experience, improve student's literacy around the use of AI, while integrating an understanding of the ethical, professional conduct, and sustainability issues surrounding the use of AI. Chris is currently undertaking a Level 7 Apprenticeship to become an AI Data Specialist, and is the AI Lead for Northumbria Law School.



Chris Zarraga

Director
Schools North East

Chris is the Director of School North East. He has been part of the Schools North East team since its operational inception in 2008 and in 2019 he was appointed Director. Chris works with senior leaders across the North East and nationally in the education and charity sectors, to represent the voice of North East schools. A central part of his work is to lobby politicians, policy makers, and the media to put a strong 'regional accent' on the education debate, so that North East schools are not left behind when it comes to education policy.

Under Chris, Schools North East launched the '*Manifesto for North East Education*'. The manifesto sets out the perennial challenges that impact educational opportunities in the North East and the principles needed to inform any educational policy wanting to address them.

Chris works with hundreds of schools across the North East and various organisations including Ofsted, the DfE, the North East's universities, Local Authorities and various regional/ national businesses. Prior to joining Schools North East, he led a £1.4 million culture change project in education across the North East for the Treasury and DfE and was responsible for setting up a multi-million-pound Enterprise Education Network.



Simon Corbett

Chief Information Officer
Northumbria University

Simon leads Digital, Technology & Transformation Services, the team responsible for all technology and transformational change across Northumbria, keeping staff and students connected, working collaboratively, and unlocking potential in a digital world. As Chief Information Officer, Simon provides strategic leadership and management of the University's Digital, Technology & Transformation service. He works closely with the University Executive to shape and deliver the University Vision, Strategy and supporting plans.

Simon is also responsible for the vision and delivery of the Digital & Technology Strategy and acts as an advisor and advocate with key stakeholders, to maximise opportunities for innovation and technology change across the University.

As a member of Northumbria's University Executive, Simon supports colleagues as to how technology can support the achievement of organisational wide ambitions, providing resilient infrastructure enabling business outcomes around teaching, research, and Knowledge Exchange.



Phil Witcherley

Director of Economic Growth and Innovation
North East Combined Authority

Phil is the new Director of Economy and Innovation at the North East Mayoral Combined Authority. He is responsible for all the work of the Combined Authority relating to economic growth, innovation, housing, culture, and sport.

Prior to joining the Combined Authority, Phil was a senior civil servant at HM Treasury leading on creative industries, advanced manufacturing, business engagement and DCMS and DBT spending. Prior to this, Phil was the Director of Inclusive Economy and Skills for the West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin



Dr Kyle Montague

Associate Professor in Computer Science
Northumbria University

Dr. Kyle Montague leads the (NorSC) Northumbria Social Computing Research Group. His research sits at the intersection of digital civics, inclusive design, and accessibility, with a core commitment to designing technologies that empower individuals and marginalised communities.

Kyle is a co-investigator on the UKRI AI Centre for Doctoral Training in Citizen-Centred Artificial Intelligence and the PROBABLE Futures project, which explores the responsible use of probabilistic AI in Law Enforcement. He also works on initiatives enhancing AI literacy among young refugees and asylum seekers, aiming to democratise access to the knowledge and tools shaping the digital society. His work combines participatory methods with ethical frameworks to advance responsible, inclusive AI design.



Dr Reem Talhouk

Associate Professor in Visual Communication and Digital Cultures

Northumbria University

Dr. Reem Talhouk is a Lebanese design researcher and Associate Professor at Northumbria University's School of Design, Arts and Creative Industries. She co-leads the Design Feminisms Research Group and is a co-investigator on the UKRI AI Centre for Doctoral Training in Citizen-Centred Artificial Intelligence. Her work is at the intersection of Design, Humanitarianism, and Human-Computer Interaction, engaging with feminist, decolonial, and participatory design theories and practices. Reem has conducted research across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Australia, working with refugee communities to explore their use and re-design aspirations of mobile health applications, digital re-settlement processes and food aid technologies. More recently, Reem has been advising humanitarian and volunteer organisations in the use of AI technologies and conducting research on building refugee AI literacy.



William Imoukhuede

Research Fellow

Northumbria University

William Imoukhuede is a Research Fellow at Northumbria University. He is currently working on a RAI UK skills project about generating resources for Young Refugees and Asylum Seekers (YRAS) on misinformation, disinformation, and AI literacy.

He is interested in the ways emerging technologies affect communities and can be utilised as tools for social change. He will be starting his PhD with the CCAI-CDT at Northumbria in September focusing on Decolonising AI Design.



Dr Matt Wood

Assistant Professor in Computer and Information Sciences
Northumbria University

Dr. Matt Wood is an Assistant Professor in Computer and Information Sciences at Northumbria University. He is the programme lead for the UKRI AI Centre for Doctoral Training in Citizen-Centred Artificial Intelligence. His work utilises qualitative methods to examine the relationship between people and technology (human computer interaction). Much of his published work is around digital sexualities and more recently he has been working in digital learning and AI.



Cllr Karen Kilgour

Leader
Newcastle City Council

As Leader of the Council, Karen provides political leadership in the coordination of council policies, strategies and service delivery. She also provides democratic leadership to residents and stakeholders, ensuring a collaborative approach to the development and delivery of services that meet people's needs and aspirations.

Karen plays a key role in projecting Newcastle to a global audience by having oversight of the council's international strategy; is the council's lead for equality, diversion and inclusion; and is helping to ensure the city's residents can live longer, healthier lives having helped Newcastle begin its journey to become a Marmot City in early 2025.

She also sits on the cabinet for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) alongside leaders of other North East local authorities, the regional mayor, and business and voluntary and community sector representatives. On the NECA Cabinet, Karen holds the Public Sector Reform portfolio.

Karen became the first female to ever be appointed as Leader of Newcastle City Council and is herself a former Council Officer.