

## The Researcher as Expert Witness and the Expert Witness as Researcher

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### Regina v. Faraz

- Faraz was charged and convicted under Sections 1 and 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006, with...
- direct or indirect encouragement to acts of terrorism and the dissemination of material that either directly or indirectly encourages acts of terrorism.

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### The Role of the Expert Witness

- An expert witness informs the judge and the jury about specialist matters about which they could not normally be expected to know.
- They must act as independent authorities to help the court bring a just verdict.
  - Produce a report.
  - Examination and cross-examination in court.

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### Researcher as Expert Witness

- Your expertise matters: someone else's life is being affected by your intellectual judgements and opinions.
- Judge and jury rely on the quality of your report and testimony under examination and cross-examination.
- Truth is no longer a relative concept, it is an absolute necessity.

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### Expert Witness as Researcher

- You need to bring all your research expertise to bear on the evidence, often to tight deadlines.

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### Ontology Matters

- You must understand and be able to identify the nature of the phenomenon that you have been asked to examine.

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### Epistemology Matters

- How you come to know what you know matters.
- You must select the tools of analysis that are appropriate to the nature of the evidence.

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### Reflexivity Matters

- What you know and understand about yourself matters.
- You need to reflect deeply on:
  - your ethnic, classed, gendered, religious and political positionality,
  - your prejudices,
  - anything that might prevent you doing justice to the evidence.

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### In court

- You have to think on your feet.
- Speak the type of language that is going to assist the court in its decision-making process without compromising your necessary level of expertise.
- You are under oath: complete honesty is obligatory.

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Do it!



- You are bringing finely honed research skills to bear on real life in an important, impactful way.
- You are standing up for justice.
- It is often relatively well-paid.
- It tests your mettle in a whole range of expected and unexpected ways.

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