

## CURRICULUM VITAE STEVE WRIGHT

Steve Wright is a Visiting Professor at the Praxis Centre for the Study of Information & Technology for Peace, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights and Senior Lecturer in the School of Applied Global Ethics at Leeds Metropolitan University.<sup>1</sup> Prior to establishing this Centre with colleagues, he was the Director of the Omega Foundation (1989-2005); Principal Policy Officer, Manchester City Council working for the PTA on a range of public transport issues.(1989-1995) as well as working as the first Head of Manchester City Council's Police Monitoring initiative. (1984 -1988) This was extremely high profile initiative which conducted inquiries into the use of riot tactics adopted during the miners strike for homeland policing. It also worked on the Northern Ireland shoot to kill policy which culminated in the so called 'Stalker Affair.'

He later worked with Manchester City Council's Nuclear Policy Unit, focussing on two key issues, (i) preparing the City Council's response to the UK Government's Planned, Programme of Implementation re Civil Defence preparations; (ii) writing the first draft of Manchester City Council's Major Peacetime Emergency Plans(1989-1990). Prior to that, he was a research officer at UMIST students Union where he set up the UK's first Pugwash group concerned with the ethical use of science and engineering. Wright holds a Bachelor of Science Degree(Hons) from the University of Manchester (1975) and a Doctorate from the University of Lancaster (1987) for his thesis on 'New Police Technologies & Sub-State Conflict Control.'

His research work on terrorism as a holistic challenge led to the development of new techniques to analyse the impact of all the participants in a conflict on the overall dynamics of how that conflict played out. This work has received renewed interest in the light of current international events and continues to be the most exhaustive collection of statistical data on any sub-state conflict.<sup>2</sup> Wright has continued to explore the social and political implications of the new technologies of political control. He has written nearly 60 scholarly and journalistic articles for a wide range of publications including the Guardian,<sup>3</sup> Le Monde Diplomatique,<sup>4</sup> New Scientist; Journal of Peace Research; Philosophy and Social Action; Amnesty International; Oxfam; Covert Action Quarterly; World Disarmament Movement; the Swiss Small Arms Survey; Landmine Action<sup>5</sup>; Pugwash; Medicine Conflict and Survival; Science & Public Affairs ; as well as the European Commission and the European Parliament<sup>6</sup>.

The European Commission grant funded the Omega Foundation for over 9 years to track the armourers of the torturers and create a bedrock of knowledge on the supply lines of repression technology<sup>7</sup>. As part of this work Wright travelled extensively in Europe, Latin America, North America, the Middle East, Russia, China, Asia and Australia..

This research has led to some fundamental shifts in national and international policy. For example, the Omega Foundation of which he was Director, pioneered field research into

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.imresearch.org/PraxisCentre/Papers/praxis.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/inn/im/RIP2004-13.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/science/story/0,,912621,00.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://mondediplo.com/1999/12/09wright>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.landmineaction.org/resources/Alternative\\_APMs\\_report.pdf](http://www.landmineaction.org/resources/Alternative_APMs_report.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://europarl.eu.int-stoa-publi-pdf-99-14-01-a\\_en.pdf.url](http://europarl.eu.int-stoa-publi-pdf-99-14-01-a_en.pdf.url)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.imresearch.org/PraxisCentre/Papers/wrightmerchants.pdf>

military, security and police technologies<sup>8</sup>. The database on that work was used by Oxfam to mount its ongoing campaigns against small arms. The Swiss Small Arms Survey also used the field data to prepare its international database on small arms producers which is the most extensive anywhere in the world. His field research for Amnesty International led to a series of high profile reports on torture technology.<sup>9</sup>

These in turn led to new European regulations banning the export of torture technologies following a special meeting of the Omega Foundation, Amnesty International and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.<sup>10</sup> At this meeting, he elaborated on a new generation of technologies used for mass incapacitation and paralysis especially at borders<sup>11</sup>. He is currently working with Dr. Brian Martin in Australia to examine the coming role of these technologies to exclude refugees during a time of rapid migrations due to war, national disaster or climate change.<sup>12</sup> To practically follow this work through he is a Trustee of the demining charity, MAG<sup>13</sup>.

Wright's report on technologies of political control to the European Parliament's Science & Technology Options Assessment Panel led to the exposure of the world wide Echelon System used for global telecommunications interception<sup>14</sup>. It also led to new approaches to explaining to a wider audience in lay terms just what technologies lay on the horizons for maintaining extant inequalities and under development. These included working with local arts and music NGO's such as Futuresonic<sup>15</sup> in the UK; as well as Worldinformation.org in Austria<sup>16</sup>; &TROIA in Germany<sup>17</sup>. This material is now used world wide to provide a teaching resource on telecommunications interception and international relations

To more practically apply this knowledge to visibly stand up for civil liberties in a time of terror, he took the role last year of chair of the trustees of Privacy International (PI).<sup>18</sup> In recent weeks PI has led the UK campaign against fast track introduction of biometric ID cards. Some of this work is now formally a part of a growing body of academic work on surveillance studies.<sup>19</sup>

In 2003, he won a competitive scholarship from the US SSRC, funded by the Macarthur Foundation, set up to enable NGO workers to move into academia as a research fellow. Since coming to work in Leeds he subsequently became a Visiting Professor and helped set up the Praxis centre which is dedicated to practical peace making. In the summer of 2005 Wright chaired a US military conference in Washington on Urban Warriors and the World Policing Summit in Virginia in the spring of 2006. Wright is now a senior lecturer in the School of Applied Global Ethics and helped to set up Leeds Met's new postgraduate and undergraduate teaching initiatives on peace and conflict research, education and resolution.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.imresearch.org/PraxisCentre/Papers/wrightpiece.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGACT400041997?open&of=ENG-CYP>

<sup>10</sup> <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGACT400082003>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2002/nov/torture.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/inn/im/RIP2005-3.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.mag.org.uk/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.jya.com/stoa-atpc.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.drewhemment.com/pdf/migrations.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> [worldinformation.org](http://worldinformation.org)

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.bbm.de/about/vita\\_e.html](http://www.bbm.de/about/vita_e.html)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.privacyinternational.org/>

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/Articles3\(2\)/echelon.pdf](http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/Articles3(2)/echelon.pdf)