

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. John McAlaney

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Dr. John McAlaney is a Chartered Psychologist, Chartered Scientist and Associate Professor of Psychology at Bournemouth University in the United Kingdom. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Stirling, his M.Sc. at the University of Strathclyde and his Ph.D. at the University of West Scotland in 2007. His Ph.D. centred on social psychology and substance abuse, looking particularly at misperceptions of peer norms.

Since joining Bournemouth University, Dr. McAlaney has been working with colleagues from the Department of Computing on several aspects of socio-technical systems. This includes exploring how psychology research may be used to better understand the role of human factors in cybercrime, hacktivism and online social protest, as well as how systems may be designed to address the potential psychological factors associated with excessive use of digital technologies (i.e. digital addiction).

Dr. McAlaney's research has focused on social psychology aspects of behavioral change, and how this is informed by group dynamics and perceptions of peer behavior. He has been extensively involved in the development of the social norms approach in the U.K., which aims to bring about positive change through challenging misconceptions and negative stereotypes. He is particularly interested in applying this research to areas that involve risk-based decision-making.

Dr. McAlaney is Deputy Head of the Research Centre for Behaviour Change and a member of the Engineering of Social Informatics Research Group (ESOTICS).

Research, Journal Articles and Conferences

- Ali, R., McAlaney, J., Faily, S., Phalp, K. and Katos, V., 2015, Mitigating circumstances in cybercrime: A position paper. 1972-1976.
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- McAlaney, J., Thackray, H. and Taylor, J., 2016, The social psychology of cyber security. *The Psychologist*, 29(9). 686-689.
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- Taylor, J., Thackray, H., Hodge, S.E. and McAlaney, J., 2018. Introducing psychological concepts and methods to cybersecurity students. *Psychological and Behavioral Examinations in Cyber Security*. 98-108.
- Benson, V., McAlaney, J. and Frumkin, L.A., 2018. Emerging threats for the human element and countermeasures in current cyber security landscape. *Psychological and Behavioral Examinations in Cyber Security*, 266-271.
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- M'Manga, A., Faily, S., McAlaney, J. and Williams, C., 2017. Folk Risk Analysis: Factors Influencing Security Analysts' Interpretation of Risk. *In: 3rd Workshop of Security Information Workers*, 12-14, July 2017. Santa Clara, USA.
- Thackray, H., Richardson, C., Dogan, H., Taylor, J. and McAlaney, J., 2017. Surveying the Hackers: The Challenges of Data Collection from a Secluded Community. *In: 16th European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security*. 29-30, June 2017. Dublin, Ireland.
- Taylor, J., McAlaney, J., Hodge, S., Thackray, H., Richardson, C., James, S. and Dale, J., 2017. Teaching psychological principles to cybersecurity students, 1782-1789.
- M'manga, A., Faily, S., McAlaney, J. and Williams, C., 2017. System Design Considerations for Risk Perception. *In: Proceedings of the 11th IEEE International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science*. 10-12, May 2017, Brighton, UK.
- Thackray, H., J., Dogan, H., Taylor, J. and Richardson, C., 2016. Social psychology: An under-used tool in cybersecurity.