

Freelance reporter/researcher with *Private Eye*, *BuzzFeed*, *New Statesman*, *The Evening Standard's* diary, *Scram News*, *The Times*, *The Spectator*.

Special interest in politics and the media. Full list of bylines with links to stories at <http://direthoughts.com/bylines/>.

- *Private Eye* - Reference available from Ian Hislop, Editor (strokes@private-eye.co.uk)
 - **July 2019** - I did a week of paid work experience at *Private Eye's* offices which led to three stories in Issue 1501. I wrote stories and researched details for HP Sauce, Rotten Boroughs, Street of Shame, and In the Back. I attended editorial meetings as well as the *Private Eye* lunch.
 - **July 2019 onwards** - I am an ongoing contributor, primarily writing politics stories.
- *Scram News* - Reference available from Sam Bright, Editor (sam.bright@scramnews.com)
 - **November & December 2019** - I was *Scram News's* general election reporter, brought in for several weeks up to and beyond polling day. I broke multiple exclusives for *Scram*, including some of its most-read articles, such as analysis of [the leaked US/UK trade deal documents](#) and their previous coverage in *The Telegraph*, and exposed [anti-semitic remarks made by a Tory candidate](#), with an investigation later launched by the party. I covered election night itself as results came in.
- *The Spectator* - Reference available from Fraser Nelson, Editor (fraser@spectator.co.uk)
 - **July 2019 onwards** - I am a freelance reporter and researcher for *The Spectator*, working directly with the editor, Fraser Nelson. I research potential feature topics, using government data, academic papers, newspaper archives, and other sources. I also research topics for Fraser Nelson who writes a weekly column for the *Telegraph*. I have written for *The Spectator's* Coffee House blog.
- *The Telegraph* - Reference available from Helena Horton, newsdesk reporter (helena.horton@telegraph.co.uk)
 - **June & July 2018** - I did two weeks of unpaid work experience on the home newsdesk, leading to six bylines in addition to small non-bylined nibs. I tracked down sources, attended press briefings, and contacted press offices and individuals for stories.
 - **July 2018 onwards** - I am a freelance contributor with joint bylines on stories in the daily and Sunday papers.
- *The Times*
 - **October 2019** - I did a week of unpaid work experience on the home newsdesk, leading to six bylines in addition to small non-bylined nibs. I found, researched, and wrote a page lead scoop on the freedom of speech of Hong Kong students being under threat at the University of York, in addition to writing, researching, and gathering quotes for other stories.
- **February 2020 onwards** - Researcher for *Left Out* (to be published Sept 2020), working directly with authors Gabriel Pogrund and Patrick Maguire, creating timelines, transcribing interviews, suggesting sources and leads.
- Stories also in *BuzzFeed*, *Evening Standard's* diary, *New Statesman*, *CityMetric*, *Byline Times*, and *The Cornish Guardian*.

Education

- MA in Film and Literature (Merit) at the University of York — September 2018 to September 2019
 - Dissertation on journalism, neoconservatism, and the films of Adam Curtis & Adam McKay. I interviewed Curtis as part of my dissertation.
- BA (Hons) in English and Related Literature (2:1) at the University of York — September 2015 to June 2018
- St Paul's School, Barnes, London — September 2010 to June 2015
 - A Level: Politics, A*, English Literature, A, History, B
 - GCSE: 6A*, 4A, 1B
 - South Square Trust Academic Scholarship

Other

I was editor of *The Lemon Press*, the award-winning satirical student magazine at the University of York, from 2017 to 2019. Worked on physical production of the magazine as well as online output.

Former PCC Secretary, St Lawrence Parish Church, York.