



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Lord (Chris) Holmes of Richmond MBE

Chris is a passionate advocate for the potential of technology and the benefits of diversity and inclusion.

Chris is co-author House of Lords Select Committee Reports on: Intergenerational Fairness [2019], [Artificial Intelligence](#) [2018], [Financial Exclusion](#) [2017], [Social Mobility](#) [2016] and [Digital Skills](#) [2015] He is co-chair of Parliamentary Groups on Assistive Technology, Fintech, Blockchain and the 4th Industrial Revolution and has published a report; "[Distributed Ledger Technologies for Public Good: leadership, collaboration and innovation](#)" calling on the Government to look at the challenges and opportunities of this technology for improving public services. A [progress update](#) was published in November 2018.

Chris advises the Government on Diversity & Inclusion and is Chair of the Global Disability Innovation Hub, a Paralympic legacy project that is leading the way in applying technology and innovation to accessible design. Chris is also Deputy Chair at Channel 4. An ex-Paralympic swimmer, Chris won nine gold, five silvers and one bronze medal across four Games, including a record haul of six golds at Barcelona 1992.



Marcus Bennett, CITB's future skills strategy

Marcus is CITB's future skills and innovation strategy lead, with responsibility for CITB's approach to: digitalisation; immersive learning and modern methods of construction.

He previously led a programme of research quantifying the demands, risks and training provision for construction occupations aimed at informing skills plans across the UK. Prior to joining CITB Marcus gained experience in the public and private sectors.



Mark Taylor, Partner, Osborne Clarke

Mark is a Partner with extensive experience in technology and data protection matters, having worked in the TMT sector for over 20 years.

Mark has a long track record of advising clients on all aspects of the implementation, transformation and exploitation of IT and novel technologies, and on the closely related areas of data protection (including data breaches), cybersecurity and interception of communications. He has an active interest in Blockchain and has advised clients on a number of Blockchain projects, as well as coordinating Osborne Clarke's Blockchain team.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mark worked for IBM writing software. He is a past Trustee of the Society for Computers and Law and is recommended in Chambers and other legal directories ("*extremely knowledgeable and commercial*"). Mark was also recommended in The Times' Best Lawyers 2019.



Fernando Santiago-Cajaraville, Blockchain Researcher & Project Manager at Big Innovation Centre

Fernando Santiago-Cajaraville is a Civil Engineer that leads the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Blockchain (APPG Blockchain) and the Blockchain for Government Council, both for the UK Parliament.

With more than twelve years' experience in Project Management, he is passionate about the uses of Blockchain in the construction industry and how society can benefit from the full potential of blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies (DLT).

Fernando Santiago-Cajaraville holds an MSc Logistics, and Supply Chain from Cranfield University, an MEng Civil Engineering from Alfonso X El Sabio University, a BEng Civil Constructions at Salamanca University, Executive Education from IESE Business School and is a Prince2 Practitioner.

"New technologies adoption, like Blockchain, confronts the society with a new order of things full of challenges; however bigger will be the opportunity to set up a new decentralised order of things for the benefit of all."



Dr. Robert M. Learney, Lead Technologist - Blockchain & DLT, Digital Catapult

Dr. Robert M. Learney is a technology enthusiast and qualified doctor who studied medicine at Oxford University and Imperial College. He completed his PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College, funded by the James Dyson Fellowship.

In 2014 Robert co-founded the Imperial College Centre for Cryptocurrency Research and Engineering and has been following developments across the sector ever since. He is a recognised international speaker on DLT/blockchain, routes to adoption, and its broader societal impacts.

He is currently the Lead Technologist in Blockchain/DLT at Digital Catapult, working to improve the UK's economic position through use of this transformative technology.



Andrew Gamblen - Digital Manager for Willmott Dixon Construction London and East

Andrew began his career as a Structural Engineer working with Supply Chain before eventually moving into design management with WDC London and East in 2015. Here he was introduced to BIM and Digital Construction and in 2017 moved over departments to become a Digital Manager working with a colleague to ensure implementation within the business.

His focus is on ensuring the basics are understood and implemented and making sure that the information gets to those who really need it. Collaborative working practices, leveraging technology where it provides benefit, and understanding the value of working in a standardised way to create quality data are all methods used to help with the implementation.



Sam Gamble - CEO for Automated Markets

A technologist and entrepreneur with 20 years in the tech industry, Sam has significant experience creating market changing software platforms in the fields of insurance, banking and self-sovereign identity.

A pivotal moment for Sam's relationship with blockchain was when he was working with KPMG to restructure the European non-performing loan market. The aim was to open this market up to more investors and drive the price of the asset up to a fair value. The key was to create common data standards and data sharing protocols powered by blockchain. The idea being, get the data right then build real value on top of it. In this case, once the data was right electronic trading venues could be created to trade the asset, authorities could monitor the market digitally and banks could offer credit at lower rates (or create larger profits, but that is a wider discussion).

Realising the power of blockchain to enable the idea of 'get the data right then build new value on it', Sam set up Automated Markets to work with innovative, forward thinking companies to bring solutions to life.
