



Isabel Picornell, PhD MCSFS

I am a Consultant Forensic Linguist providing analysis of linguistic style and meaning in forensic contexts to the corporate, investigative, and intelligence sectors since 2005.

Forensic linguistics covers a broad area, from the analysis of trademarks in legal disputes to analysing suicide notes for authenticity. My area of expertise within this range is the analysis of linguistic style and strategies for authorship and disputed meaning in questioned contexts.

I am an Associate member of the Expert Witness Institute and a Certified Expert Witness (CUBS). I have provided expert reports in forensic linguistic analysis for criminal proceedings in the UK and for civil proceedings in the United Kingdom and internationally, and I have given expert witness evidence in criminal court in the United Kingdom.

Affiliations

- Visiting Research Fellow - Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics 2017 – present
- Member - International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics (IAFLL); past President 2021-2023.
- Founding Member – Philippine Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics (2024); Editor-in-Chief of its Journal of Forensic and Legal Linguistics.
- Member - Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics (GSFL)
- Member – Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS)
- Associate Member – Expert Witness Institute (EWI)

PhD Qualification

2013 PhD Forensic Linguistics, Aston University, UK.
Cues to deception in a textual narrative context: lying in written witness statements.

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Selected Publications and Conference Papers

In Preparation

Bloomsbury Handbook of Language and Crime (eds. D. Archer and M. Gillings) – lead author/editor for Section 1: Language, Crime and Professional Practice

Published

- 2026** Picornell, I. (2026) “We will get you”: linguistic ideology, power and the distortion of meaning in Twitter discourse, *Language and Law/Linguagem e Direito*, 12(2), 59-78.
- Picornell, I (2026) The Linguistics of Analysing Deception in Written Texts. *Elements in Forensic Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Picornell, I (2026) Ethics and Professional Conduct Oversight in Forensic Linguistics Expert Evidence. In I. M. Nick and Kirsty E. Blewitt (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Ethics in Forensic Linguistics*. Routledge.
- 2024** Picornell, I. & Wright, D. (issue eds) Special Issue in Forensic and Legal Linguistics, *International Journal of Semiotics of Law*, 37(2).
- Wright, D. & Picornell, I. (2024) Semiotic perspectives on forensic and legal linguistics: unifying approaches in the language of the legal process and language in evidence, *International Journal Semiotics of Law*, 293-304.
- 2022** I. Picornell, R. Perkins & M. Coulthard (eds.) (2022) *Methodologies and Challenges in Forensic Linguistic Casework*. NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Picornell, I. & Coulthard, M. (2022) Detecting Faked Texts. In I. Picornell, R. Perkins & M. Coulthard (eds) *Methodologies and Challenges in Forensic Linguistic Casework*. NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- There can only be one possible meaning: linguistic experts and evidence in court*. Plenary presentation. IAFL 2022 European Regional Conference, Porto, Portugal.
- 2019** *To whom this may concern: audience profiling in forensic (con)texts* 14th IAFL Biennial Conference, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2017** *Linguistically Profiling the Trump Russian Dossier* Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics. University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

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- 2015** Vrij, A., Taylor, P. & Picornell, I. (2015) Verbal Lie Detection, In Oxburgh, G., Myklebust, T., Grant, T. & Milne, B. (eds) *Communication in Forensic Contexts: Integrated Approaches from Psychology and Linguistics*, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Cues and the Company They Keep: deception in written witness statements*, IAFL 12th Biennial Conference in Forensic Linguistics, Guangzhou, China

Academic/Teaching Positions

- 2021 - Present** Course Director - *Forensic Linguistics Short Course (FLsc)*, Heinrich Heine University, Dusseldorf, Germany
- July 2023** Course Director – *International Summer School in Forensic Linguistic Analysis*, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines
- July 2016**
- 2018 - 2019** Course Co-Director – *Forensic Linguistics Short Course (FLsc)*, University of Cologne, Germany

Expert Witness Training

- 2025** Bond Solon Training - Discussion between Experts
- 2024** Bond Solon Masterclass in Courtroom Skills
- 2023** Bond Solon Masterclass in Report Writing
- 2021** Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (Criminal)
- 2021** Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (Civil)

Editorial Reviewer

Journal of Forensic and Legal Linguistics (Editor in Chief)

International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law

Linguagem e Direito/Language & Law

International Journal of Semiotics of Law

Applied Corpus Linguistics

Psychiatry, Psychology and Law

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