

Dr Louise Pryor MA PhD FIA FRSA

www.louisepryor.com

- Effective senior player with an outstanding ability to deliver big things to a high standard.
- Experienced in actuarial, academic, software and regulatory fields, with demonstrated ability to operate effectively in novel environments.
- Board level experience in financial regulation and policy at the Financial Reporting Council.
- Member of Governing Body of Newnham College, Cambridge.
- Strong communicator able to bridge the gap between technical and customer focuses.
- Expertise in governance and risk management at both board and operational levels.
- Critical and analytical thinker with extensive background in risk and uncertainty.
- Keen business sense and practical bias.
- Working knowledge of a wide range of programming paradigms.
- Experienced public speaker and writer.

Education and qualifications

- 1988 – 1993 PhD in Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence), Northwestern University, USA (PhD 1994). Dissertation title: *Opportunities and planning in an unpredictable world*.
- 1987 Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries (Associate 1985).
- 1978 – 1981 Newnham College, University of Cambridge. BA (Hons) Mathematics. MA 1983.

Professional experience

2008 – 2011 Director, Actuarial Standards, Financial Reporting Council (FRC)

2007 – 2008 Project Director, Financial Reporting Council

- Responsible for the first set of technical standards for actuarial work to be developed by an independent standard setting body in the world. Delivered initial set of seven standards on time and to budget, over three years.
- Ensured intellectual and presentational consistency of standards by developing the overall framework and structure, and crafting the drafting style.
- Managed formal public consultations, including drafting consultation papers, holding meetings and making presentations, analysing feedback, and drafting and issuing responses.
- Delivered initial set of seven standards on time and to budget, over a three year period.
- Managed relationships with stakeholders including other regulators, government departments, the Actuarial Profession, industry groups, practitioners, users of actuarial information including pension scheme trustees and insurance company directors, and consumers.
- Researched and wrote the BAS's discussion paper on *Actuarial Mortality Assumptions*, and became recognised as an expert on mortality and longevity.
- Member of Board for Actuarial Standards (BAS) and of FRC's senior management team.
- Observer on the Professional Oversight Board, which oversees the accounting, auditing and actuarial professions
- Recruited and managed technical and administrative team responsible for supporting the Board.

2002 – 2007 Independent software risk consultant

- Advised on systems of governance for software modelling and risk management, including systems and controls, introducing simple software engineering techniques to actuaries and other modellers, enhancing the quality of information used by senior management and boards.
- Reviewed spreadsheets for accuracy and usability, discovering and correcting numerous formula errors, and achieving performance improvements of up to 50 times in some spreadsheets, enabling them to be used interactively to explore scenarios.
- Devised and presented workshops on managing, reviewing and developing user-developed models, and on risk management.
- Reviewed, developed and deployed standards and processes for user-developed models, including for documentation, testing (development and acceptance) and change control.
- Designed, implemented and released XLSior, an Excel add-in supporting the development of reliable spreadsheets.

- Programmed, supported and extended a stochastic asset/liability model for annuity business and developed change processes for use by the insurance company client and the consultants, including specification, documentation, review, and testing.
- Recognised as an expert in the management of software risk, and continue to receive invitations to speak at conferences and workshops.

2000 – 2001 Development manager, Securities Finance Systems Ltd

I recruited and managed a team of developers maintaining and re-engineering a client/server system for analysing stock lending risk. I was responsible for line management, recruitment, and negotiating specifications and delivery schedules with the marketing team, and was the lead developer and software architect.

1996 – 1999 Senior software engineer, Adaptive Systems Group, Harlequin Ltd

I led a team of software engineers designing and delivering part of a large distributed system which used machine learning, planning and scheduling to implement adaptive workflow control. The team was spread over two continents in three time zones, and delivered its contribution to specification and on time. I was project manager for the team, a member of the design and coordination group for the overall system, and the principal architect and developer of one of the modules.

1994 – 1996 Lecturer, Department of Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh

1993 – 1994 Lecturer, Computer Science Department, Birmingham University

1989 – 1993 PhD Student, Institute for the Learning Sciences, Northwestern University

1988 – 1989 PhD Student, Computer Science Department, Yale University

My research was focused on developing computer programs to develop plans and manage their execution in an uncertain world. It involved combining top-down, goal-driven reasoning with bottom-up, reactive behaviour. I supervised masters and PhD students, was a programme committee member and referee for numerous international conferences, workshops and journals and had many papers published in international conferences and journals (see www.louisepryor.com).

1983 – 1988 Actuarial consultant, Tillinghast

1981 – 1983 Actuarial trainee, TPF&C

I started my career as an actuarial trainee in pensions and then life insurance. After qualifying as an actuary, I moved into general insurance.

Technology

I have developed in (and taught many of) Access, APL, C, C++, CLIPS, Corba/IDL, Excel, FORTRAN, HTML, Java, Javascript, Lisp, Lotus123, php, Prolog, Scheme, SQL, UML, VBA, VB.NET and XML.

External profile

- 2011 – date Chair, Stipends committee, Newnham College, Cambridge.
- 2010 – date Organising committee, Cambridge parkrun, a free weekly timed run open to all.
- 2009 – 2012 Member of Governing Body, Newnham College, Cambridge (Associate Fellow).
- 2009 – date Member of Advisory Board, Winton Centre for Financial History.
- 2005 – 2007 Website developer and administrator for Distributed Proofreaders (www.pgdp.net), a volunteer organisation producing high quality digital e-texts of public domain books.
- 2005 – 2007 Assisted in the design of, and examiner and course leader for, the Actuarial Profession's CA2 modelling module.
- 2005 – 2006 Committee member, European Spreadsheet Risks Interest Group.
- 2002 – 2007 Chair and member of GIRO working parties on risk, software and professionalism.
- 2001 – 2011 Associate, Newnham College, Cambridge, working with Senior Members of the College to support students and College activities. I organise and take part in careers workshops for the students, provide student mentoring and designed and maintain the Associates' interactive web site (see www.newnhamassociates.org.uk).
- 1997 – 2007 Honorary Fellow in the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh.
- 1986 – 1988 Committee member, Staple Inn Actuarial Society.
- 1986 – 1987 Correspondence course tutor, Institute of Actuaries.
- 1986 Assistant examiner, Institute of Actuaries.

Regular speaker at external and in-house conferences. Author of numerous articles and papers on actuarial standards, software development and artificial intelligence. Program committee member and chair for academic conferences and symposia.