

Roy Schestowitz

BY EMAIL ONLY: r@schestowitz.com



York House
23 Kingsway
London WC2B 6YF
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7379 5114
Fax: +44 (0)20 7836 4974
DX 419 London Chancery Lane
www.jsf-law.co.uk
23 November 2021

YOUR REF:
OUR REF: MP/AJF/G883331

URGENT

Dear Sir

OUR CLIENT: MATTHEW GARRETT YOUR TWITTER & DIASPORA PUBLICATIONS ON 9 NOVEMBER 2021

1. We act on behalf of Matthew Garrett.

2. The Publications

2.1 We are writing with reference to the tweet published by you on Twitter on 9 November 2021, which is currently accessible via <https://twitter.com/schestowitz/status/1458002432898781186> (“the Tweet”). A copy of the Tweet is enclosed with this letter for ease of reference.

2.2 We understand that the Tweet is a republishing of content initially published by you on the Diaspora media platform which can currently be accessed via <https://joindiaspora.com/posts/21912302> (“the Diaspora Publication”). A copy of the Diaspora Publication is enclosed.

2.3 The Tweet and the Diaspora publications will collectively be referred to as “the Publications”.

2.4 For your ease of reference, in the Publications, you state as follows:

“This is about Matthew GAFAM #mfg who boasts about going to FOSS conferences to find sex <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/why-did-no-one-warn-me-about-conference-sexual-predators>”

“Why did no one warn me about conference sex or predator. Victims must be supported to speak out – and conference organisers must act, says Kirsten England.”

2.5 The term to FOSS is commonly understood to refer to free and open-source software.

Judge Sykes Frixou Limited
Registered in England and Wales under Company Number 10467888
Registered Office York House, 23 Kingsway, London WC2B 6YF
Judge Sykes Frixou Limited is authorized and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority SRA No: 635280

Also at Latchmere House, 26 Watling Street CT1 2UD

- 2.6 The article by Kirsten England to which you include a link in the Publications (“the Article”) (a copy of which is enclosed) states as follows:

“Why did no one warn me about conference sexual predators?”

Shrugging is not good enough. Victims must be supported to speak out – and conference organisers must act, says Kirsten England

November 9, 2021

Kirsten England

I am a career professional but also a graduate student about to receive my hard-fought-for PhD. I do not believe myself to be a naive person; if anything, I have an excessive mistrust of others. That is why what happened to me came as such a surprise.

Because of the pandemic, I did not get the opportunity to attend an academic conference until September. The fellow “on the market” grad student with whom I had been due to attend dropped out because of illness, but I was assured by my mentor, colleagues and other professors that this was a fantastic networking opportunity I simply could not miss. I also had grant to attend. So I went.

At the welcome breakfast, I made some connections. I was ecstatic to no longer be alone.

Later that day, one of the people I had met invited me for drinks with him that evening. Colleagues I was in contact with encouraged me to go, assuring me that this was all part of the networking process. So I went along to the very swanky establishment he suggested, which served champagne while we waited for a table.

After about 90 minutes of discussing our research, he escorted me back to my hotel, which was on the way to his. I was thankful for the company since it was dark and I didn’t know the city.

The next day we exchanged texts, and I agreed to meet up again. He gave me the impression that another person from the conference would be joining us, but he arrived alone, explaining that the other person had ended up having another engagement.

I ordered my customary one drink and we talked shop again. I declined his repeated offers of further drinks, but he kept partaking. About two hours later, after what I thought was another fruitful conversation, he again escorted me back to my hotel.

When we arrived, he said he needed to come up to my room. When I firmly declined, he attempted to grab my wrist and repeated that he needed to come up to my room. I dodged his grasp and repeated that he needed to go back to his own hotel. But it was only when someone from the hotel saw him trying to accompany me through the door (which you could open only with a room key) that my now-assailant took off angrily.

The next day, I told my colleagues about the incident and was surprised at the varying responses. Some were as shocked and appalled as I was, while

others dismissed it, saying this happens to all women at conferences: "This is why we don't go alone."

I cannot describe how angry this made me. But further conversations with both men and women confirmed that this behaviour is indeed prevalent at conferences, with some particularly notorious. This made me even angrier. Why was I not warned? Why was I encouraged to have drinks with people alone? To add insult to injury, one of my colleagues actually asked around about what I had done to encourage this man's actions.

Like most women, I did not report the incident to the conference organisers. I was told that my complaint would not be anonymous and that it would follow me throughout my academic career. A committee would be formed, but only to sweep the incident under the rug. The only person who would suffer would be me.

To my own chagrin, I took this advice to heart.

I feel let down by some of my colleagues, who I expected to support me but instead shamed me for something I had no control over. I feel let down by my university, which does not even warn junior academics about conference predators. Indeed, I feel let down by the whole academic profession. We are educators. Our students learn from our actions, and our current actions are incredibly harmful. How are students supposed to feel safe coming forward when those who lead are doing the harassing? How can I encourage them to report incidents when I could not even bring myself to report mine?

I hope that publishing this article will start to rectify my omission. I want to send the message that victims of harassment are not alone – and we will not be silenced.

Kirsten England is an elementary school teacher and a PhD student at a US university."

3. The Allegations

- 3.1 The Publications (in conjunction with the Article and by reference to it) contain the following statements that are potentially defamatory:
- (i) You state that the Article is about "*Matthew GAFAM #mjg*", both well-known nomenclatures used by our client and/or previously used by you to refer to our client (see <http://techrights.org/2021/11/08/matthew-gafam-hypocrisy/>) . By doing so, you assert that our client is a "*conference sexual predator*".
 - (ii) You state that our client met with the author of the Article, Kirsten England, and attempted to ply her with alcohol with the intention of having sex with her against her will.
 - (iii) You state that our client attempted to use physical force in order to compel Ms England to take our client to her hotel room for the purposes of predatory, non-consensual sex.
 - (iv) You state that our client is a predatory assailant and that he regularly exhibits such behaviour towards women at FOSS professional conferences.

- (v) You allege that our client goes to FOSS conferences in order to “*find sex*” and that this would include predatory attempts to have sex with conference attendees without their consent.

(Collectively “the Allegations”).

- 3.2 The Allegations are false. Contrary to your assertions, our client has never to his knowledge met the author of the Article, Ms Kirsten England, and did not attend any conferences during September 2021.
- 3.3 The Allegations are baseless and appear to be made solely because of a conversation that you had with our client (and other individuals) on IRC on 8 January 2021. This conversation included some discussion of the intersection between sexual liberation and free software. For the avoidance of any doubt, the IRC conversation on 8 January 2021 can in no way be said to justify any of the Allegations.
- 3.4 The Publications have caused and/or are likely to cause our client serious harm. The allegations would substantially affect the attitude of others towards our client given the nature of the allegations that he is a sexual predator and the “*assailant*” described as having subjected the author of the Article to harassment. Accordingly, it can reasonably be inferred that the Publications have caused our client serious harm.
- 3.5 Further, the Publications have been, by their publication on Twitter, targeted at many of our client’s professional contacts, including former co-workers and community members. In addition, you have communicated the publications to at least one conference organiser. The inevitable serious damage that this will do to their perception of our client will impact their assessment of whether our client is a suitable attendee for future conferences. Conference attendance is a key network tool within our client’s industry and therefore his exclusion from such conferences will have a serious and potentially prolonged impact on his career.
- 3.6 Further, the nature of the allegations are such that they amount to harassment and, further, risk causing our client to be exposed to further harassment from third parties if the Allegations are taken at face value.

4. Other matters and next steps

- 4.1 The Publications are highly defamatory of our client. Our client therefore requires that you:
- (i) Preserve any information relating to the readership of the Publications, as well as the appearance and impressions associated with any social media posts referring to the Publications within your control (“Social Media Posts”) and provide us with that information.
 - (ii) Remove the Publications from your Twitter feed and Diaspora account and procure that any Social Media Posts are deleted.
 - (iii) Undertake not to publish the Publications or Social Media Posts again, or otherwise to republish the Allegations.
 - (iv) Publish, with equivalent prominence to the Publications, a suitable apology in terms to be agreed.
 - (v) Archive that apology on your Twitter and Diaspora accounts, so that it remains searchable to users of both platforms.

(vi) Pay our client's legal costs to be assessed if not agreed.

4.2 In the event that you are not willing to comply with the above requests, our client may choose to issue proceedings against you without further notice. Those proceedings will be issued in England, which given that you are domiciled in Manchester, is the most appropriate forum for the dispute to be heard.

We look forward to hearing from you by return and in any case by no later than 4.00pm on 26 November 2021.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JSF', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

JUDGE SYKES FRIXOU



Explore

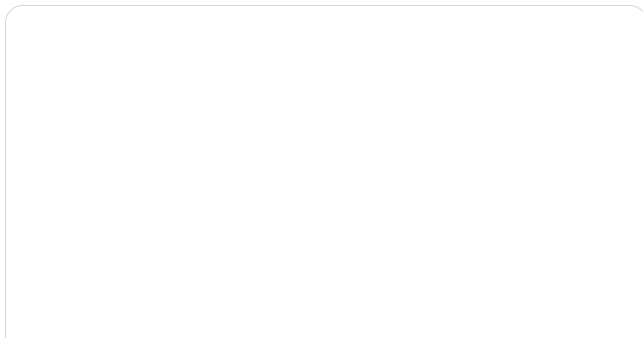
Settings

← Tweet



Dr. Roy Schestowitz (罗伊)
@schestowitz

This is about Matthew GAFAM #mjg who boasts about going to FOSS conferences to find sex



timeshighereducation.com

Why did no one warn me about conference sexual predators?

Shrugging is not good enough. Victims must be supported to speak out – and conference organisers must act, says Kirsten England

9:24 am · 9 Nov 2021 · JoinDiaspora



Search Twitter

New to Twitter?

Sign up now to get your own personalized timeline!

Sign up with Google

Sign up with Apple

Sign up with phone or email

By signing up, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), including [Cookie Use](#).

Relevant people



Dr. Roy Schestowitz (...)
@schestowitz Follow

Write-only account; follow/reply to me at Diaspora:

joindiaspora.com/people/da68a1f...

What's happening

Television · Last night

I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!

The Big Issue · Yesterday

How to donate your warm coat to help homeless people

Times Travel · Yesterday

Your ultimate Christmas guide for things to do this winter

Trending in United Kingdom

Met Office

1,334 Tweets

UK national news · 2 hours ago

Funeral service for Sir David Amess held at Westminster Cathedral in London

Trending with [Sir David Amess](#)

Show more

[Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookie Policy](#)

[Ads info](#) [More](#) © 2021 Twitter, Inc.

Don't miss what's happening

People on Twitter are the first to know.

Log in

Sign up



Dr. Roy Schestowitz (罗伊) (/people/da68a1f811b0f71e)
🕒 14 days ago (/posts/b366ca40236c013a1535002590d8e506)

(/people/da68a1f811b0f71e)

This is about Matthew GAFAM #mjg (tags/mjg) who boasts about going to FOSS conferences to find sex <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/why-did-no-one-warn-me-about-conference-sexual-predators> (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/why-did-no-one-warn-me-about-conference-sexual-predators>)



Why did no one warn me about conference sexual predators?

(<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/why-did-no-one-warn-me-about-conference-sexual-predators>)

Shrugging is not good enough. Victims must be supported to speak out – and conference organisers must act, says Kirsten England

There are no comments yet.

Powered by diaspora* (<https://diasporafoundation.org>)

Project discussions and support (<https://discourse.diasporafoundation.org>) What's new?

(<https://github.com/diaspora/diaspora/blob/master/Changelog.md>) Code 0.7.15.0 (<https://github.com/diaspora/diaspora>)

Pod statistics (/statistics) Switch to touch-optimized mode (/mobile/toggle) Terms (/terms) Imprint

(<https://feneas.org/imprint/>)

Close

Why did no one warn me about conference sexual predators?

Shrugging is not good enough. Victims must be supported to speak out – and conference organisers must act, says Kirsten England

November 9, 2021

[Kirsten England \(/author/kirsten-england\)](#)

2

I am a career professional but also a graduate student about to receive my hard-fought-for PhD. I do not believe myself to be a naive person; if anything, I have an excessive mistrust of others. That is why what happened to me came as such a surprise.

Because of the pandemic, I did not get the opportunity to attend an academic conference until September. The fellow “on the market” grad student with whom I had been due to attend dropped out because of illness, but I was assured by my mentor, colleagues and other professors that this was a fantastic networking opportunity I simply could not miss. I also had grant to attend. So I went.

At the welcome breakfast, I made some connections. I was ecstatic to no longer be alone.

Later that day, one of the people I had met invited me for drinks with him that evening. Colleagues I was in contact with encouraged me to go, assuring me that this was all part of the networking process. So I went along to the very swanky establishment he suggested, which served champagne while we waited for a table.

THE Campus views: the shifty discourse of ‘staff well-being’
(https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/broccoli-and-birdsong-shifty-discourse-staff-wellbeing?utm_source=academic-website&utm_medium=link-embed&utm_campaign=news)

After about 90 minutes of discussing our research, he escorted me back to my hotel, which was on the way to his. I was thankful for the company since it was dark and I didn’t know the city.

The next day we exchanged texts, and I agreed to meet up again. He gave me the impression that another person from the conference would be joining us, but he arrived alone, explaining that the other person had ended up having another engagement.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 1824
The University of Manchester


Leading
the world on ▶




Source: iStock

FEATURED JOBS

Clinical Data Coordinator
 ([//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10))
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON




Alumni Manager
 ([//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10))
 UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN




Director/Head of Centre for Learning Anatomical Sciences
 ([//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10))
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON



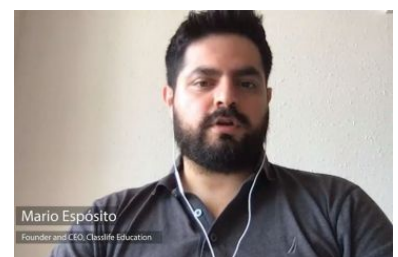
Associate Professor in Marketing
 ([//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10))
 EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY



Research Technician
 ([//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijob-trackid=10))
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON



See all jobs
 ([//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs))



([/hub/amazon-web-services/p/classlife-education-finalist-amazon-alexa-edtech-skills-challenge-emea](https://hub.amazon-web-services/p/classlife-education-finalist-amazon-alexa-edtech-skills-challenge-emea))

Classlife Education (finalist): Amazon Alexa EdTech Skills Challenge EMEA 2020
 ([/hub/amazon-web-services/p/classlife-education-finalist-amazon-alexa-edtech-skills-challenge-emea](https://hub/amazon-web-services/p/classlife-education-finalist-amazon-alexa-edtech-skills-challenge-emea))

Sustainable Development

Learn more about Alexa for education and vote now in the Amazon Alexa EdTech Skills Challenge EMEA 2020.

Promoted by Amazon Alexa EdTech Skills Challenge
SPONSORED

ADVERTISEMENT

Want to write for *THE*? Click for more information (/write-times-higher-education)

I ordered my customary one drink and we talked shop again. I declined his repeated offers of further drinks, but he kept partaking. About two hours later, after what I thought was another fruitful conversation, he again escorted me back to my hotel.

When we arrived, he said he needed to come up to my room. When I firmly declined, he attempted to grab my wrist and repeated that he needed to come up to my room. I dodged his grasp and repeated that he needed to go back to his own hotel. But it was only when someone from the hotel saw him trying to accompany me through the door (which you could open only with a room key) that my now-assailant took off angrily.

The next day, I told my colleagues about the incident and was surprised at the varying responses. Some were as shocked and appalled as I was, while others dismissed it, saying this happens to all women at conferences: "This is why we don't go alone."

I cannot describe how angry this made me. But further conversations with both men and women confirmed that this behaviour is indeed prevalent at conferences, with some particularly notorious. This made me even angrier. Why was I not warned? Why was I encouraged to have drinks with people alone? To add insult to injury, one of my colleagues actually asked around about what I had done to encourage this man's actions.

Find out more about how to get full unlimited article access to *THE* for staff and students.

(<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/subscriptions>)

Like most women, I did not report the incident to the conference organisers. I was told that my complaint would not be anonymous and that it would follow me throughout my academic career. A committee would be formed, but only to sweep the incident under the rug. The only person who would suffer would be me.

To my own chagrin, I took this advice to heart.

I feel let down by some of my colleagues, who I expected to support me but instead shamed me for something I had no control over. I feel let down by my university, which does not even warn junior academics about conference predators. Indeed, I feel let down by the whole academic profession. We are educators. Our students learn from our actions, and our current actions are incredibly harmful. How are students supposed to feel safe coming forward when those who lead are doing the harassing? How can I encourage them to report incidents when I could not even bring myself to report mine?

I hope that publishing this article will start to rectify my omission. I want to send the message that victims of harassment are not alone – and we will not be silenced.

Kirsten England is an elementary school teacher and a PhD student at a US university.

ADVERTISEMENT

[Home](#) [Wiki](#)

About ↓

[Editors](#) [About the Site](#) [Using This Web Site](#) [Site Archives](#) [News Digest](#)

Patents ↓

[EPO](#) [Software Patents in Europe](#) [USPTO](#) [WIPO](#) [US Supreme Court](#) [Patent TrollTracker](#)

Antitrust ↓

[Comes vs. Microsoft Bill Gates Deposition](#)

Standards ↓

[OpenDocument](#) [OOXML](#)

GNU/Linux ↓

[Linux Foundation](#) [Red Hat](#) [Richard Stallman](#) [Market Share](#) [Open Source Initiative](#)

Privacy ↓

[Microsoft/NSA](#) [Skype](#) [Startpage](#)

Media ↓

[Credibility Index](#) [ZDNet](#) [Microsoft PR Agencies](#) [Gates Foundation](#) [Cablegate](#) [Black Duck](#) [Richard Stallman Interviews](#)

[IPFS](#) [Git](#) [Gemin](#) [Videos](#) [IRC](#) [RSS](#) [Bulletin](#)



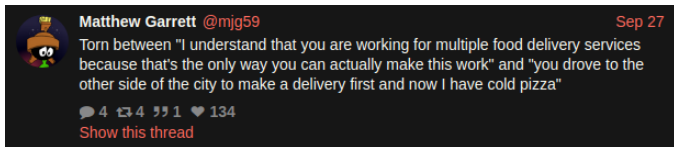
11.08.21

[Gemini version available II](#)

CORPORATE TROLL MATTHEW "GAFAM" GARRETT COMPLAINS ABOUT COMPUTER DEVICES CALLED "MASTER/SLAVE" WHILE USING SLAVE LABOR

Posted in [Deception](#) at 3:13 am by Guest Editorial Team

Guest post by Ryan, reprinted with permission from [the original](#)



According to a Doordash driver on TikTok...

The way this normally happens, I'm told, is that if you don't tip your driver, then your food sits there while driver after driver declines it.

Eventually, it goes up 50 cents per driver that declines it, and then someone takes your food and brings it to you, [after about an hour](#).

Of course, Garrett is the corporate troll that implemented a scheme where Microsoft has to sign off on your bootloader or else your OS won't boot on a PC, which he calls security.

But he's also a self-proclaimed "Social Justice Warrior" always calling for people to be cancelled, and just generally whining and complaining. He's one of the fake complainers about calling computer devices "master and slave".

Apparently, they didn't pay him enough to leave a tip for his Doordash ~~slave~~ driver. You know, 1099 workers, mostly minorities, making less than minimum wage, paying double social taxes to the IRS, no health insurance, have to have their kids in the car with them in Chicago during a carjacking spree..... Slavery!

He had to be muted on Techrights IRC because he kept direct messaging people, including me, to talk about sex in bizarre contexts.

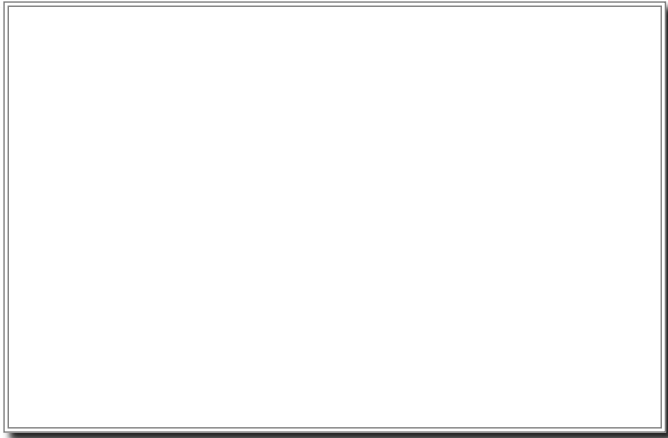
Unfortunately, in some circles, people don't know what a clown this guy is, and why they should laugh at him. ■

Share in other sites/networks: These icons link to social bookmarking sites where readers can share and discover new web pages.

-
-

[Permalink](#) [Send this to a friend](#)





Below is a Web proxy. We recommend getting a Gemini client/browser.

☒ This post is also available in [Gemini](#) over at [this address](#) (requires a Gemini client/browser to open).

CROSS-REFERENCES

☒ Pages that cross-reference this one, if any exist, are listed below or will be listed below over time.

- [Any Ongoing Participation in GitHub Helps Microsoft Attack Free Software](#)

RESPOND AND DISCUSS

☒ If you liked this post, consider [subscribing to the RSS feed](#) or join us now at [the IRC channels](#).

Hello!

Nick

I have a password

Channel

Start

A Single Comment

1. mjpg59 said,

November 8, 2021 at [4:08 am](#)

Hey Roy! This is factually inaccurate – I went back and checked, and it turns out I left a 30% tip (\$9.50 on a \$31 order). In addition:
 > He had to be muted on Techrights IRC because he kept direct messaging people, including me, to talk about sex in bizarre contexts.
 This seems untrue? I'm sure you or Ryan can provide evidence of this otherwise.



WHAT ELSE IS NEW

-
1. [Microsoft-Led Misinformation Campaign About Germany and Munich Reminds Us That Microsoft Hates and Actively Undermines GNU/Linux Adoption](#)