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About

John taught Science and Physics in secondary schools for fourteen years, including a role as Head of Science. For three years, he worked part time at the University of Warwick on the Science PGCE course and part-time in school. He joined the University of Birmingham in 2007 as Lecturer in Science Education with a focus on Physics initial teacher education.

Qualifications

- PhD (in progress)
- MA
- PGCE
- BEng
- Diploma in Psychology (Conversion for Postgraduates).

Teaching

John is programme leader for the Post Graduate Diplomas in **Science: Physics (QTS) (/postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/pgce-secondary-science-physics.aspx)** and **Physics with Mathematics (QTS) (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/pgce-secondary-physics-mathematics.aspx)**. His administrative responsibilities are those normally associated with the role of PGDipEd Tutor. John is also leads on the **Physics Subject Knowledge Enhancement course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/secondary-physics-ske.aspx)**. He is lead tutor for the MEd module Education Observation, Supervision and Evalution.

Postgraduate supervision

MEd in Teaching Studies

Research

- Nature of Science
- Scientific literacy
- Initial teacher training
- Secondary School Science curriculum
- Evaluation of news reports of science

Publications

Kirkman, J.R. (2014) **Trainee teachers' understandings of news stories about science: beyond ideas about uncertainty. (http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/4407/)** PhD thesis. *University of Birmingham.*

Kirkman, J.R. (2012) "Decisions about likelihood of veracity of news reports of science: The contribution of advanced knowledge of science." Paper presented at *Researchers sharing with researchers. National Science Learning Centre, University of York, York. 2-4 July 2012.*

Kirkman, J.R. (2011) "Pre-service teachers' use of heuristics to evaluate scientific claims in Web-based news stories." Paper presented at *European Science Education Research Association Biannual Conference. Lyon, France. 5-9 September 2011.*

Kirkman, J.R. (2010) "Trainee teachers' evaluations of newspaper reports of scientific research: Inferences made with reference to scientific methodologies." *ESERA PhD Summer School. Udine, Italy. 25-30July 2010.*

Kirkman, J.R. (2010) Reading between the lines or reading 'off the wall' - interpreting media reports of science and their plausibility. *Papers from the 9th Student Conference. University of Birmingham. 5 July 2010.*

Kirkman, J.R. (2009) 8 out of 10 cats prefer Whiskas: Making judgments about 'scientific' knowledge claims. *Papers from the 8th Student Conference. University of Birmingham. 4 July 2009.*

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