Dr. VICTORIA BAINES

Professor of Information Technology
Leading Authority in the Field of Online Trust, Safety and Cybersecurity
Facebook's former Trust & Safety Manager

Victoria Baines is a leading authority in the field of online trust, safety and cybersecurity.

She is Professor of Information Technology at Gresham College, London's oldest higher education institution, where she delivers public lectures that demystify world-changing technologies for 'ordinary' people. She also provides expertise to a number of leading international organisations, helping them anticipate and adapt to technological change. For several years Victoria was Facebook's Trust & Safety Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa, providing support to law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and engaging with ministers and heads of state on key policy issues. Before joining Facebook, Victoria led the Strategy team at Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), where she was responsible for the EU's cyber threat analysis. Prior to this, Victoria was Principal Analyst at the UK Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). She began her career in law enforcement in as a Higher Intelligence Analyst for Surrey Police, fighting drug trafficking and organized crime, and cracking cold cases. Victoria is a graduate of Trinity College, Oxford and holds a doctorate from the University of Nottingham. She is a Visiting Fellow at Bournemouth University's School of Computing, a former Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University, and was a guest lecturer at Stanford University in 2019 and 2020.

Victoria has published on cyberspace governance, online surveillance, the future of cybercrime, and the politics of security. She frequently contributes to major broadcast media outlets – BBC Newsnight, Radio 4, and Sky News among them – on digital ethics, cybercrime and the misuse of emerging technologies such as Extended Reality and Artificial Intelligence.

In 2008, the International Association for Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts recognised Victoria's work with a global award for outstanding achievement. She is co-host of the award-nominated Cyber Warrior Princess podcast, explaining cybersecurity for a popular audience. She has been named as one of the top 25 women in cybersecurity (IT Guru & SC Magazine) and is a Freeman of the City of London and Chair of the Security Panel of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, the voice of the IT industry in the City. She serves on the Advisory Boards of Snapchat, cybersecurity provider Reliance ACSN, and the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE), and is a trustee of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.

She regularly addresses both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Topics (Selection):
- Cyber Crime and Cyber Threats including Ransomware and Social Engineering
- What is the Metaverse?
- Online Trust and Safety - Who Owns the Internet?
- Defeating Digital Viruses: Lessons from the Pandemic

Publications (Selection):
- Rhetoric of Insecurity, 2021

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