

## Resume

Nigel Gilbert  
Sociology, University of Surrey

Professor Nigel Gilbert is Professor of Sociology at the University of Surrey. He has an international reputation as a pioneer in the use of computer simulation in the social sciences and is the author of the principal textbook in that field and many research papers. He is immediate past President of the European Social Simulation Association and founder-editor of the *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*. He has held a personal Chair at Surrey since 1991.

From 1997 to 2005, Professor Gilbert was a Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, apart-time post. He had strategic responsibility for staffing matters and was a member of the senior management team of the University, a chartered institution with a turnover approaching £150 million and 13,000 students.

His research interests encompass the sociology of scientific knowledge (understanding how scientists generate reliable knowledge), science policy (strategies for the management of science), and the sociology of the environment, including the management of natural resources such as water. He has written extensively in these areas and is the editor of one of the textbooks on sociological research methods most widely used in UK universities.

He has a first degree in Engineering Science from Cambridge. Since graduation, he has aimed to link engineering and the social sciences and his work was honoured with election as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1999. He is still the only practicing social scientist to be a Fellow of the Royal Academy. He was President of the Engineering Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 2005 and is at present leading a policy group for the Royal Academy on privacy and surveillance. He is also an Academician of the Academy of the Social Sciences, the recently formed national academy for the social sciences, and is a member of its Council.

He has served on a number of government and national committees, as the Deputy Chairman of the Manufacturing, Production and Business Processes Foresight Panel (1994-9), Deputy Chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council's Research Priorities Board (1997-2000) and on the Advisory Group of the Foresight Intelligent Infrastructures Project, as well as on many research council boards, both in the UK and abroad. He is a member of the RAE Sociology sub-panel for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and previously served on the 2001 Panel. In the 1980s, he pioneered the development of interactive programs for claimants to use to assess their entitlement to welfare benefits and this later led to very large collaborative projects on the application of expert systems to social security administration. In the 1990s, he was instrumental in the setting up of one of the first web-based electronic academic journals, which is now a primary journal in British sociology.