John Lister has been a journalist since 1975, and specialised in health policy issues since 1984 when he became Information Director/researcher of (then GLC-funded) pressure group London Health Emergency, developing the first evidence-based critique of controversial policies of privatisation, austerity cutbacks and introduction of competitive market reforms to the British National Health Service. He still holds that post.

John achieved a PhD in health policy in 2004, and has since authored books on global health policy (2005 and [2013](http://www.libripublishing.co.uk/Products/CatID/9/ProdID=62)) and [England’s NHS](http://www.merlinpress.co.uk/acatalog/NHS-FOR-SALE.html), and participated in discussions and conferences, collaborated in publications and international research on health systems, and engaged in campaigning with a variety of international organisations and individuals – academic, trade union, and political.

He was an associate senior lecturer in Health Policy, Journalism and Health Journalism at Coventry University 2004-2013, and played a leading role in the 7-country EU-funded HeaRT (Health Reporter Training) project from 2010-2012. He still teaches on health modules and journalism, and advises the University on global health systems, as well as fielding media enquiries on NHS and policy issues.

John has been a member of the National Union of Journalists for 43 years, and is a member of the Medical Journalists Association. He edited and contributed extensively to the first-ever e-book on health journalism [“First do No Harm”](http://libripublishing.co.uk/health-policy-and-management/first-do-no-harm?cPath=&) (2014). He organised two successful international conferences on health journalism in Coventry University. He has also worked with the NUJ to organise educational discussions on reporting the NHS.

As an analyst and researcher John has worked with health unions and others on a wide range of projects including on mental health, long term care of older people, cutbacks and reconfiguration plans, the [Private Finance Initiative](https://healthemergency.org.uk/pdf/PFI_experience.pdf) as well as on [London’s health services.](http://www.peoplesinquiry.org/index.php) He was a founder member of KONP launched in 2005, of which he is currently co-chair, and more recently a co-founder of the Health Campaigns Together initiative in 2015, for which he edits the website and quarterly newspaper, now in its third year.

John was a member of the [Mansfield Commission](https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/independent-healthcare-commission-report-final-lowres.pdf) investigating hospital services in NW London and subsequently worked with colleagues to respond to the NW London Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as well as a wider study of all 44 [Sustainability and Transformation Plans](https://healthcampaignstogether.com/pdf/sustainability-and-transformation-plans-critical-review.pdf) (Spring 2017), and (summer 2018) a further updated study of what has happened with STPs in the East of England – awaiting publication.

John has written extensively on the history of the NHS (1988, 1998) including an award-winning book 2008, and contributed to the 2013 book *NHS SOS* edited by Jackie Davis and Ray Tallis. In 2015 John collaborated with Jackie Davis and David Wrigley to update the analysis in [NHS for Sale](http://www.keepournhspublic.com/bookshelf.php).

Internationally, John has worked with a WHO-funded project on health systems change, worked several times in Ontario with the Ontario Health Coalition challenging cutbacks, privatisation and Public Private Partnerships (or 'P3s'), and has been a board member and organised and attended conferences for the International Association of Health Policy in Europe (IAHPE).