A Feminist Witch Hunt in Oxford

Dr Jeffrey Ketland
International Conference on Men’s Issues
July 2018

1. Introduction

First, many thanks to Mike Buchanan for organizing this conference and also for inviting me to speak. This talk is primarily about the feminist-run vigilante witch hunt against me during 2013-14 and also the topics that story emphasizes:

- Social justice identity politics:
- Ex 1: Feminist demonization of men
- Ex 2: Feminist witch hunting and vigilantism.
- Ex 3. Gynocentrism: the anti-male bias in the education and legal systems.
- Ex 4. Domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, stalking by women and how it is covered up/excused.

But before I get to these topics, I'll first describe the events from 2008 to 2016, albeit briefly. A detailed timeline of all this -- for which there are many eyewitnesses and a large amount of evidence -- is in the printed handout. You can also read a summary of these events in the book:


2. Assailed, stalked and hunted

From late 2010 to mid 2013, I was stalked by a violent woman, Charlotte Coursier, whom I had known closely as friends for two years prior to that, from late 2008. In late 2010, she sexually assaulted me, harassed me & threatened me; she began stalking me, and this continued for over two years; later, she stalked my wife and son; and she slandered me with delusional fantasies, all contradicted by the witness & email evidence (which she was told to “delete” by Suzanne Holsumback, an American feminist in Oxford). She had Borderline Personality Disorder, with the classic symptoms: splitting, projection, suicide threats and attempts, extreme fear of abandonment, manipulative lying, emotional dysregulation, assaults, stalking and a background of many unstable relationships over nearly a decade. During the period Mar 2013 - Jun 2013, she was manipulated and cajoled by militant feminists in Oxford, including her housemate Brooke Berndtson, into making a series of wild, false accusations about me. This manipulation ruined and destroyed her life, because her welfare emergency was ignored by these militant feminists, her delusional fantasies were “believed” and her repeated attempts to get me to “rescue” her (which is why she was repeatedly stalking me at my seminars in May and June 2013) were thwarted by these militant feminists’ activism. On June 2013, her boyfriend (in London) dumped her; she threatened suicide, and committed suicide a few hours later in Oxford.
After this, Coursier’s American feminist housemate Brooke Berndtson and her housemate’s feminist supervisor, Dr Paula Boddington, set up a vigilante witch hunt against me, recruiting many other militant feminist zealots: they smeared me with fabrications based on no evidence; cyber-harassed me and my family with anonymous messages calling me a “murderer”; intimidated and libeled me on social media (on Twitter, Facebook & feminist blogs); intimidated & harassed me out of teaching; and eventually drove us out of our home -- with a smear and intimidation campaign of vicious evidence-free lies. By mob pressure, they got their lies read out in a coroner’s court on 26 Feb 2014 (about which I wasn’t even consulted, and for which the Senior Coroner later apologized), published in the national press and got me fired a few days later, after they’d published wild, frenzied lies and demands for punishment in an “Open Letter” (5 March 2014). I was publicly smeared and vilified with flat-out lies and abuse. The truth was the exact opposite: we had been the victims of a violent, psychopathic stalker Charlotte Coursier.

I spent about six months appealing, and was vindicated and reinstated, in August 2014. But these vigilante feminist harassers destroyed our lives and left us pauperized. The militant feminist vigilantes in the academic philosophy profession have continued their persecution of me since: in Oxford in late 2014, I was silenced; and then quietly forced out of my job again, on a trumped-up pretext (non-reply to a non-existent email); I was ostracized, blacklisted and treated as a pariah, all on the basis of blatantly fabricated lies.

3. A recent comment on the moralizing and vindictive internet mobs in academic philosophy

"I find the current atmosphere of self-righteous moralizing and vindictive internet mobs in the discipline deeply disturbing (whether the mob is on the left or the right). Such attitudes easily produce injustice and cruelty to individuals and unwise and counter-productive policy-making. Here I’m moralizing too, though not naming individuals or proposing policies. The effects would be much less serious if universities could be trusted to observe basic principles of fairness and due process and to fulfill their duties of care to both students and employees, but they can’t. Like most other institutions, they are more concerned to protect their reputations, which typically involves trying to cover up a problem or, if that fails, summary dismissal of alleged culprits. But those institutional failings are not specific to philosophy." (Professor Timothy Williamson, Wykeham Professor of Logic, University of Oxford, interview, May 2017)

4. Social justice identity politics

4.1 Feminist demonization of men.
4.2 Feminist vigilantism and witch hunting.
4.3 Gynocentrism: the anti-male bias in the education and legal systems.
4.4 Domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, stalking by women and how it is covered up/excused.