Chris Anderson – BIO

Chris Anderson is Professor of Government and Labor Relations at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he teaches political economy and political sociology; he is also a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics.

Through his academic research, Anderson has developed an international reputation as an expert on the application of multilevel statistical models to explain how economic and political structures shape citizens’ judgments and voting behaviors. This and other work has been recognized by peers, garnering Anderson a variety of scientific awards, including the American Political Science Association’s prestigious Heinz Eulau Award and the Emerging Scholar Award in the area of Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior.

Anderson has held appointments at a number of universities, including Oxford University and Stanford’s Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences. He also has taught management strategy at prominent business schools, including Cornell’s Johnson School of Management and Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, and he has extensive management experience in academic settings.

Anderson has applied his analytic and statistical expertise to quantitative soccer analytics, becoming a pioneer in this nascent field. This work has sought to produce insights derived from quantitative analysis to build more effective teams, optimize player and team performance, and manage clubs as organizations. Some of his projects have produced econometric models useful for understanding, predicting, and improving team performance; for others, he has written algorithms for evaluating individual player performance as well as assessing players’ likely transfer market values. Anderson’s work has led him to consult with football writers as well as stakeholders in the football industry on how to use information to improve decision quality in a multi-billion dollar industry. Many of Anderson’s insights can be found on his popular Soccer By The Numbers blog, read widely by fans and professionals of the beautiful game. He also has been a speaker at the prestigious Sports Analytics Conference held annually in Boston by MIT’s Sloan Business School and other industry events.

Anderson’s recent book on football analytics, co-authored with David Sally of Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business, is titled The Numbers Game: Why Everything You Know About Football Is Wrong (Penguin, 2013). The Times has hailed it as “the book
that could change the game forever”, while Malcolm Gladwell praised it, saying that it “Does the impossible of making the beautiful game even more beautiful.” A “Moneyball meets Freakonomics” for football, *The Numbers Game* combines social science principles and methods with football’s numbers to help fans see the game they love in a new light and unmask the ways in which managers and owners get it wrong, often to the tune of millions of pounds.