

ESRC Research ‘Seminar series on genetics, technology, security and justice. Crossing, contesting and comparing boundaries’

Thu, 14 July 2016, 12:00 – 18:00 and Fri, 15 July, 09:00 – 14:00, Northumbria University, Great Hall, Sutherland Building, College Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, UK

Seminar 3: Comparing the use of DNA in criminal investigations & DVI across European borders

This 2-day seminar will discuss cross-jurisdiction uses of genetic technologies in criminal justice and disaster victim identification, including the role of the UK and other member states as collaborators and within the EU.

Security concerns – about crime, terrorism, mass death atrocities and disasters – are a key driver for the development of new technologies, and human genetics research has played an important contribution here. DNA technologies provide vital resources for the identification of human remains and the production of information that can help to provide evidence in complex crimes.

This seminar is part of a series of six interdisciplinary seminars between 2015 and 2017, which will critically examine the potential and actual contributions of forensic genetics to the production of security and justice in the UK and other contemporary European societies. The series is influenced by the commitment of the European Union ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’ to protect the security of social infrastructures and the safety and freedom of its citizens. At the strategy’s heart lies the development of scientific and technological resources to combat threats arising from natural disasters, crime and terrorism.

The series of meetings and its connected discussions will engage with the relevant biosocial research at the intersections of genetics, technology, security and justice. It will bring together academic researchers, policy makers and practitioners from policing organisations, commercial forensic service providers, public sector organisations and civil society groups, in the UK and abroad. We will discuss how such technologies can be used to support security while respecting freedom. A network of those involved will be established to help disseminate existing research, and to identify new research avenues towards informing UK policy and practice on the uses of genetic information to address the societal challenges of justice and security.

For presentations and discussion outcomes from previous seminars please see the webpages for each seminar at: www.northumbria.ac.uk/forensicgenetics

Bursaries for Early Career Researchers are available and will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The bursary can cover reasonable travel costs and accommodation for together up to £250. Bursary holders will be asked to write a brief thematic summary report about the seminar discussions for the seminar series website. Please contact matthias.wienroth@northumbria.ac.uk for further information.

Confirmed seminar speakers (alphabetical order)

- Ingo Bastisch (German Federal Crime Agency)
- Kees v. d. Beek (Netherlands Forensic Institute)
- Lucy Easthope (Lincoln University)
- Patrick Jeuniaux (Belgian Ministry of Justice)
- Amade M'charek (University of Amsterdam)
- Helena Machado (University of Coimbra)
- Christopher Maguire (ForGenetica Cons Ltd.)
- Carole McCartney (Northumbria University)
- Claudia Merli (Durham University)
- Ursula Nae (University of Vienna)
- Peter Schneider (University of Cologne)
- Victor Toom (University of Frankfurt)

Programme

Thursday, 14 July

12:00—13:00 Registration & buffet lunch

13:00—13:15 Welcome (Matthias Wienroth)

13:15—14:15 Session I

Chair: Robin Williams

1. Lucy Easthope: *The situated realities of forensic un/certainty and political remains*
2. Chris Maguire: *Validation & verification under ISO/IEC 17025:2005. What does this mean for forensic DNA software?*

Discussion

14:15—15:15 Session II

Chair: Erica Haimes

1. Claudia Merli: *Theory and bodies out of bounds: A reflection on identity politics and thanatocracy*
2. Amade M'charek: *When Humans and Technologies Cross Borders: Identifying Refugees Around the Mediterranean Sea*

Discussion

15:15—15:45 Refreshments

15:45—16:45 Session III

Chair: Matthias Wienroth

1. Victor Toom: *DVI practices after the 9/11 WTC tragedy: protocols, experts and victims' families*
2. Ingo Bastisch: *Processes and cooperation in forensic DNA for investigation and identification*

Discussion

16:45—17:45 Plenum discussion – Opportunities, gaps and themes for research & policy work

Chair: Ernesto Schwartz-Marin

17:45—18:00 Close

Friday, 15 July

09:00—09:30 Registration

09:30—09:35 Welcome (Matthias Wienroth)

09:35—10:30 Session I

Chair: Jackie Leach Scully

1. Helena Machado: *Geopolitics & ethical challenges of DNA data exchange in the EU*

2. Patrick Jeuniaux: *Towards reconstructing DNA-based offending trajectories within and across the borders*

Discussion

10:30—11:30 Session II

Chair: Victor Toom

1. Ursula Naue: *DNA tests as an arbiter of truth – the case of family reunification*

2. Kees van der Beek: *The Impact of Massive Parallel Sequencing on National Databases: Considerations, Challenges and Opportunities*

Discussion

11:30—12:30 Session III

Chair: Chris Lawless

1. Peter Schneider: *From Forensic Genetics to Genomics – Perspectives for an Integrated Approach to the Use of Genetic Evidence in Criminal Investigations*

2. Carole McCartney: *Prove: Genetics + Technology = Security & Justice.*

Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Plenum discussion – Opportunities, gaps and themes for research & policy work

Chair: Robin Williams

13:30—13:35 Close

13:35 – 14:30 Buffet lunch