

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

Wed, 23 November 2016, 12:00 – 18:00, Northumbria University, Great Hall, Sutherland Building, College Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, UK

Seminar 4: Comparing forensic and medical genetic technologies

The focus of this seminar lies on comparing the scope and uses of genetic technologies in biomedical/clinical and forensic settings. Whilst many jurisdictions currently ban routine exchange of information between ‘criminal’ and ‘medical’ databases, emerging technological innovations in genetic profiling blur the line between forensic and medical information. This seminar will discuss differences and similarities in use and governance of such technologies, and the challenges that might arise from the multiple uses that can be made of genetic information and the responsibilities that rest with the different stakeholders in acting as collectors and providers of, and guardians for, such information.

This seminar is part of a series of six interdisciplinary seminars (2015-2017), which critically examine contributions of forensic genetics to the production of security and justice in the UK and other contemporary societies. The series is influenced by the commitment of the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’ to protect the security of social infrastructures and the safety and freedom of its citizens.

The series of meetings engages with the relevant biosocial research at the intersections of genetics, technology, security and justice. It brings 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 discuss 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 up to £250. Bursary holders will be asked to write a brief thematic summary of the seminar discussions for the seminar series website. Please contact matthias.wienroth@northumbria.ac.uk for further information.

Wednesday, 23 November

12:00—13:00 Registration & buffet lunch

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

13:15—14:45 Session I

Chair: Matthias Wienroth

1. Niels Morling (Copenhagen): *Forensic genetics: Ethical considerations*

2. Bronwyn Parry (KCL): *Legitimizing 'spaces of exception' for data exchange: Family reunification, trafficking and the war on terror*

3. Gethin Rees (Newcastle): *'The Second Victimisation': Forensic Medical Practitioners' attitudes to standardisation in forensic evidence collection*

Discussion

14:45—15:15 Refreshments

15:15—16:15 Session II

Chair: Robin Williams

1. Barbara Prainsack (KCL): *The datafication of everything? Effects on convergence of forensic and medical bioinformation*

2. Simon Woods (Newcastle): *Framing common goods: From genomics to forensic 'big data'*

Discussion

16:15—17:15 Plenum discussion – Opportunities, gaps and themes for research & policy work

Chair: Erica Haimes

17:15—17:30 Close