



Genetic identities and identification: Social issues surrounding non-medical DNA testing

International Conference to be held 11th-12th October 2018

EHESS, amphi Furet, 105 bd Raspail, 75006 Paris, France

Whereas the vast majority of social science studies on genetics concern health, this conference takes a different approach focusing on non-medical uses of DNA. These have developed substantially over the past two decades in a variety of fields ranging from police/legal investigations and family reunification applications in migration to familial searching and victim identification. In a number of countries, the identification of people using DNA comparison has resulted in large databases of DNA profiles being compiled. Furthermore, new approaches are being devised aimed at establishing correlations between, on the one hand, DNA sequences and, on the other, people's geographical origin and/or characteristic traits of physical appearance. This shows how, beyond the simple question of identifying people, their very identity seems to be influenced by these approaches at the centre of contemporary biopolitics. More generally, the various techniques aimed at identifying people also inform their social identity.

Some of these techniques raise moral and politic debate or even controversy, while others do not or not to the same extent. In certain cases, DNA seems to provide solutions to social problems, whereas in others it seems to create new ones. Across the board, though, these practices invite a fresh approach to traditional social science questions. They contribute to reconfiguring a whole set of social boundaries or, to paraphrase Ian Hacking, social 'knots', i.e. tensions resulting from contradictory trends: between regimes of truth and uncertainty, between security and freedom, between identifying and categorising populations, and between national sovereignty and international exchange.

The conference will explore four sets of questions:

- 1) Regimes of truth and uncertainty: what place does DNA evidence hold compared to other forms of evidence or other clues, such as traditional fingerprints? Do the opinions of the different social actors involved (magistrates, investigators, geneticists, etc.) differ depending on the technique being used? What role do these innovations play in the

puzzle facing professionals as they try to piece together the truth? How much faith is placed in DNA evidence? Does feedback from the past 20 years' experience suggest DNA should be given a new role as a 'truth machine'?

- 2) Security and freedom: what social definitions inform the balance between the two aims of, on the one hand, ensuring populations' security and wellbeing, and, on the other, respecting individuals' freedom and rights? How is the scope of DNA databases defined, in terms of limits and content? How does the public view these innovations? How are responsibilities divided between different actors (magistrates, police officers, geneticists, etc.) when it comes to adding, managing, and consulting files, collecting samples, and storing/exchanging data?
- 3) Identifying and categorising populations: how are issues of identification (through DNA comparison) linked to aims for categorising populations or individuals (geographic origin, etc.)? What moral questions and political debates emerge in this regard? What can these debates (or lack of debates) tell us about the way in which DNA changes the identification and categorisation of people? How do these different practices influence contemporary identity politics?
- 4) National sovereignty and international exchange: how does the circulation of knowledge, information, and people combine with national regulations in terms of data collection and storage? What guarantees are provided in return for the information exchanged? Which people are likely to be concerned by these international exchanges (people on a wanted list, people under specific surveillance, undocumented people, etc.)? Have more or less personal details been exchanged since DNA has been in use?

This conference aims to engage interdisciplinary dialogue around these issues between sociologists, anthropologists, legal specialists, and historians.

This conference is organised as part of the **FiTeGe project "Genetic Databases and Witnesses: Genealogy, Social issues, Circulation"**, funded by the National Research Agency/Agence nationale de la recherche (coordinator: Joëlle Vailly, Iris, more information available here: <http://fitege.hypotheses.org/>).

Academic convenors/ Organising committee: **Pascal Beauvais** (Professor University of Paris West Nanterre, CDPC), **Florence Bellivier** (Professor University of Paris West Nanterre, CDPC/CRNST), **Elisabeth Fortis** (Professor University of Paris West Nanterre, CDPC), **Gaëlle Krikorian** (Inserm Post-Doctoral Fellow, Iris), **Christine Noiville** (CNRS Research Director, CRNST), **Florence Paterson** (Research Assistant ARMINES, CSI), **Vololona Rabeharisoa** (Professor PSL MINES ParisTech, CSI), **Joëlle Vailly** (CNRS Research Director, Iris)

Program

NB : Presentations will be given in English or French. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Thursday, October 11, 2018

9h Welcome: **Joëlle Vailly** (CNRS, France)

9h30-10h30 Keynote

Expertise, common sense, and legal evidence: Reflections on DNA profiling controversies in the US and UK, **Michael Lynch** (Cornell University, USA)

10h30-10h45 Break

10h45-12h15 Session 1: Truth regimes and uncertainty

Chair: **Joëlle Vailly** (CNRS, France)

Inverting the inversion of credibility: Forensic genetics and other identification techniques in the post-PCAST era, **Simon A. Cole** (University of California, USA)

La théorie de la preuve pénale face à l'extension du recours à l'ADN par les acteurs de la procédure, **Pascal Beauvais, Elisabeth Fortis** (Université Paris PO Nanterre, France)

The “technopolitics of likelihood”: the French National DNA Database (FNAEG) and the comparison of genetic profiles, **Vololona Rabeharisoa, Florence Paterson** (PSL MINES ParisTech, France)

12h15-12h30 Discussion

12h30-13h30 : Lunch

13h30-15h30 Session 2: Uses of DNA during judicial practices

Chair: **Florence Bellivier** (Université PO Nanterre, France)

Displacing the gene: DNA as one among other technologies in family identification, **Claudia Fonseca** (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil)

Identification regimes and orders of truth: Negotiating scientific, legal and social certainties around enforced disappearance, **Cath Collins** (Ulster University, UK), **Daniela Accatino** (Universidad Austral, Chile)

Utilisation de l'ADN dans les procédures pénales, **Julie Léonhard, Bruno Py** (Université de Lorraine, France)

"Reconfiguring" the Criminal Trial: the role of DNA evidence, **Oriola Sallavaci** (Anglia Ruskin University, UK)

15h30-15h45 Discussion

15h45-16h Break

16h-17h Session 3: National sovereignty and international exchange

Chair: **Pascal Beauvais** (Université PO Nanterre, France)

Souveraineté pénale, coopération policière et judiciaire et échanges d'ADN, **Florence Bellivier** (Université Paris PO Nanterre, France), **Gaëlle Krikorian** (Inserm, France), **Christine Noiville** (CNRS, France)

Police epistemic culture and boundary work in the case of transnational DNA data exchange in the EU, **Helena Machado** (University of Minho, Portugal)

17h-17h15 Discussion

Friday, October 12, 2018

9h30-11h45 Session 4: Public security vs individual freedom

Chair: **Vololona Rabeharisoa** (PSL MINES ParisTech, France)

"There's no use for an empty database": mandatory DNA collection in Brazilian prisons and the making of a national DNA database, **Vitor Simonis Richter** (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil)

Enregistrement des profils ADN d'intervenants – enregistrement des profils ADN de condamnés: banques de données distinctes et perceptions par les intéressés, **Bertrand Renard, Caroline Stappers** (Inst. Nat. Criminalistique et Criminologie, Belgique)

10h30-10h45 Break

Usages de l'ADN par la police. Les conditions épistémiques de l'absence d'un débat public, **Gaëlle Krikorian** (Inserm, France)

Prolonging and extending suspicion. The social logics at work in police use of the French DNA database, **Joëlle Vailly** (CNRS, France)

Striking a fair balance? The UK national DNA database. Ten years after S & Marper, **Carole McCartney** (Northumbria University, UK)

12h15-12h30 Discussion

12h30-13h30 : Lunch

13h30-15h30 Session 5: Phenotyping and origin of people

Chair: **Christine Noiville** (CNRS, France)

Written in our DNA. Genomic ancestry testing and the reclaiming of “hidden” histories, **Sarah Abel** (University of Iceland, Iceland)

Intersecting discourses of security, commerce and race. Forensic DNA phenotyping and biogeographical ancestry prediction in the German public debate, **Matthias Wienroth** (Newcastle University, UK), **Denise Syndercombe-Court** (King’s College, UK), **Veronika Lipphardt** (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Deutschland)

Views of forensic geneticists on the ethical boundaries of forensic DNA phenotyping: Enacting boundary work, **Rafaela Granja**, **Helena Machado** (University of Minho, Portugal)

Revaluing race: Forensic genetics and phenotype prediction, **David Skinner** (Anglia Ruskin University, UK)

15h30-15h45 Final discussion