

The Regulation of Genetics Outside the State

PROGRAMME

ESRC Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (LSE) and
the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (University of Exeter)

10th-11th March 2005

Thursday 10th March

2 –2.15 Registration

2.15 – 2.30 Introduction: **Prof Bridget Hutter and Prof John Dupre**

2.30 – 4.00 **The Biotechnology Industry and Self-Regulation**

In a context of intense politicisation and continuous regulatory change, how do biotechnology firms adapt their commercial agendas to an uncertain regulatory environment? What are the lessons of these self-regulatory strategies? What has been the role of industry-wide and sector-specific bodies in devising internal regulations and buffering the uncertainties of external change?

Speakers:

Pressure Groups and Consumer Bodies as Regulatory Advocates and Agents – the Impact of the Consumer's Association and GeneWatch UK on the Practice and Regulation of Commercial Genetic Testing

Stuart Hogarth

Institute of Public Health, Cambridge University

Regulating Dual-use Biomedical Technologies in the Private Sector: policy and impact

Dr Filippa Corneliussen

BIOS, London School of Economics

Discussant

Prof Steven Hughes

Egenis Centre for Genomics in Society, University of Exeter

Chair:

Prof Bridget Hutter

CARR, LSE

4.00 – 4.30 Coffee/ Tea

4.30 – 6.00 The Everyday Regulation of Genomics in Health Practice

From new developments in gene therapy to the uses of genetic testing, it is sometimes difficult to predict the practical implications of new biotechnology products when they enter the health sector, because their effects are often shaped by complex and unanticipated interactions between health professionals, the institutions of health care, and their users. How are technological innovations transformed into routine tools of health care, and how is the everyday use of these tools governed by medical professionals, users, and institutions?

Speakers:

Ethics as Practice: Implementing Predicting Genetic Testing in the Medical Genetics Clinic

Dr Carlos Novas

BIOS, London School of Economics

The Exceptionalism of Genetic Testing: lessons from a qualitative study on thrombophilia

Dr Paula Saukko

Egenis, University of Exeter

Discussant

Dr Guy Bradley Smith

GP, St Thomas Health Centre

Chair:

Dr Henry Rothstein

CARR, LSE

6.00-7.00 – Reception

Friday 11th March

9.30 – 11.00 Intellectual Property in Legal Practice

The status of bioengineered objects as subject of property rights is in a continuous flux, as the legal practice of courts and biotechnology firms constantly re-defines the boundaries of acceptable patentability. What is the state of play in the area of biotechnology property? How are legal statutes applied and given concrete meaning by the actions of biotechnology developers, lawyers, and the courts?

Speakers:

Genomics and the Patent System: debates over function and information

Dr Jane Calvert

Egenis Centre for Genomics in Society, University of Exeter

Industrial Form and Informatic Machines: on the prehistory of bioinformatic inventions

Dr Alain Pottage

Department of Law, London School of Economics

Discussant:

Tim Roberts

Intellectual Property Consultant; Formerly ICI, Zeneca

Chair:

Prof Steven Hughes

Egenis Centre for Genomics in Society, University of Exeter

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee

11.30 – 13.00 The Self-Policing of Research

Given the contentious nature of basic research in genetics and genomics, how do research institutions set research agendas in an uncertain and evolving regulatory environment? How does the eventual policy relevance shape the trajectories of research in basic science? Are research interests changing to accommodate new or expected regulatory demands? In other words, how does the anticipation of future controversies affect the everyday activities of scientists and researchers.

Speakers:

Choices and Priorities: why some science is not done

Dr Alf Game

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Sound Science Versus Precautionary Science? Comparing the Dynamics of Genetically Modified Crops/ Food Biosafety Research in the USA and the EU (1984- 2003)

Dr Christophe Bonneuil

Centre Koyré for the History of Science, CNRS, Paris and INRA-TSV

Discussant

Dr Javier Lezaun

CARR, London School of Economics

Chair:

Christine Hauskeller

13.00- 14.00 Lunch and Close
