



Tuesday 30th March 2010, 10am -12noon
Committee Room 1. Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

The Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics Ethnography and Engagement Group

10.00 Welcome

10.15 Introduction: Establishing an interdisciplinary programme of research engagement (Dr Katie Featherstone)

10.20 The MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics (Dr Ian Jones)

10.30 Complexity, Accountability and the development of Large-Scale Psychiatric Genetics (Dr Michael Arribas-Ayllon)

10.40 Society in the Laboratory (Dr Andrew Bartlett)

10.50 Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration: Introducing sciSCREEN (Dr Jamie Lewis)

11.00 Engaging with the Humanities and Social Sciences: Cardiff Philosophy Café (Dr Chris Groves)

11.10 Discussion: What are we trying to achieve? (Dr Katie Featherstone)

12.00 Finish

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The Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics Ethnography and Engagement Group

Team: Dr Katie Featherstone, Dr Jamie Lewis, Dr Michael Arribas-Ayllon, Dr Andrew Bartlett, Dr Richard Watermeyer, Dr Choon Key Chekar, Claudine Anderson, Dr Ian Jones, Professor Mike Owen

This is a collaboration between the MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics, Cesagen, the School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, the Beacon for Wales and the Wales Gene Park. Funded by the MRC, ESRC, WORD and the British Science Association.

Our programme of interdisciplinary work combines research, public engagement and artistic collaboration to examine recent and ongoing advances and controversies within the field of neuropsychiatric genomics. It will both document and contribute to the social and cultural frameworks of new biomedical developments in psychiatric genetics to explore the wider social, personal, and political implications they raise. This programme will take the developments of psychiatric genetics beyond the domain of 'scientific innovation' and into the field of 'public imagination' to explore the implications for individual and collective identity, issues of personal responsibility, justice, and education.

This close integration of the social, clinical and biological sciences into a collaborative network with experts in public engagement and the arts is unusual. We believe this integrated multidisciplinary approach is required to take into account the multiple perspectives on these multi-factoral polygenic conditions and to develop links with a broad range of stakeholders.

The communication of more complex and nuanced understandings of mental illness and genomics will require thoughtful, creative and accessible forms of media to critically engage the public in these scientific and clinical developments. This programme will target the public's ambivalence about genetic risk and social stigma towards mental illness by creating innovative and accessible forms of engagement. The collaboration and its network will create a multi-modal data set, an archive of text and narratives, visual and graphic representations, artistic performances and the utilization of web 2.0 to produce up-to-date and innovative research about the mind, risk, and inheritance.