

## **"Social science, public engagement and genetic databases: lessons from Generation Scotland"?**

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This paper will discuss the involvement of sociologists in the multidisciplinary biobank project, 'Generation Scotland' [www.generationscotland.org](http://www.generationscotland.org) . From an early stage in the genetic databases development, we have been involved in a public consultation and public engagement stream of work that has run alongside the scientific programme including the building of the research infrastructure. There have been two distinct phases of research with stakeholders and wider publics and these have fed into the wider scientific agenda and processes. This research has also contributed to social scientific knowledge and debate around public engagement, trust, expertise and policy solutions to public concerns. The paper will present the findings of the different elements of this mixed method study and consider the overall contribution of the sociologists and how we have tried to walk the line between co-option, critical friendship and more over challenge.

**For a fuller discussion of the issues to be addressed in this presentation, please consult the following papers:**

Gill Haddow, Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Ann Bruce and Sarah Parry, "Generation Scotland: consulting publics and specialists at an early stage in a genetic database's development", *Critical Public Health*, forthcoming  
([www.genomicsforum.ac.uk/documents/pdf/china/SarahCB1.pdf](http://www.genomicsforum.ac.uk/documents/pdf/china/SarahCB1.pdf))

Gillian Haddow, Graeme Laurie, Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Kathryn G. Hunter, "Tackling community concerns about commercialisation and genetic research: A modest interdisciplinary proposal", *Social Science & Medicine* 64 (2007) 272-282 ([www.genomicsforum.ac.uk/documents/pdf/china/SarahCB2.pdf](http://www.genomicsforum.ac.uk/documents/pdf/china/SarahCB2.pdf))

Anne Kerr, Sarah Cunningham-Burley and Richard Tutton, "Shifting subject positions: experts and lay people in public dialogue", *Social Studies of Science* 37 (2007) 385-411  
([www.genomicsforum.ac.uk/documents/pdf/china/SarahCB3.pdf](http://www.genomicsforum.ac.uk/documents/pdf/china/SarahCB3.pdf))