

New Families and Genetic Identities:



Developments in law, policy and research

20-21 June 2013

Wolfston Theatre, New Academic Building, Lincoln's Inn Fields, LSE, London

The conference aims to explore the social and legal significance of what it means to be genetically related. While it is easy to say that genetic links are significant for individuals and families, the precise meanings of such links are highly contested, as are associated concepts such as 'origin', 'identity' and 'openness'. New medical technologies and practices such as donor conception and surrogacy now challenge the taken-for-granted boundaries of relatedness and identity. Our conference will bring together original empirical research on how families (including children) negotiate genetic relatedness with critical explorations of the social, ethical and legal consequences of new family forms and the political role of the state in managing and recording personal identity.

Please see overleaf for full programme.

This event is organised by the Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life (University of Manchester) and the LSE.

The 'Relative Strangers' project is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council. More information about the project is available at: www.manchester.ac.uk/morgancentre/research/relative-strangers

Day one, 20 June 2013: Donor conception, genetic relatedness and family life

Time	Session
10.00	Registration (with Tea and Coffee)
10.15	Welcome Professor Carol Smart (Sociology, University of Manchester)
10.25	‘New Families and the Welfare of the Children?’ The Rt. Hon. Lady Hale DBE PC (The Supreme Court) Response by Natalie Gamble (Natalie Gamble Associates)
11.40	‘Relative Strangers: Living with donor conception’ Professor Carol Smart and Dr Petra Nordqvist (Sociology, University of Manchester) Response by Professor Sally Sheldon (Law, University of Kent) and Tracey Sainsbury (London Women’s Clinic)
1.30	Vegetarian lunch (provided)
2.30	Donor Conception in Policy and Practice ‘Child or Offspring? Family from a children’s rights perspective’ Professor Titti Mattsson (Law, University of Lund, Chair of the Nordic Committee on Bioethics) ‘Congratulations: It’s a Viking’ Professor Janne Rothmar Herrmann (Law, University of Copenhagen, member of the Nordic Committee on Bioethics) ‘The Nuffield Council Report on Donor Conception’ Dr Rhona Knight GP (Chair of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics working party on donor conception)
4.15	“There is no such thing as genetic identity” Professor John Harris (Lord Alliance Professor of Bioethics, University of Manchester) Chair: Professor Dame Janet Finch (Sociology, University of Manchester)
5.30	Drinks reception (to 6.30pm)

Day two, 21 June 2013: Family resemblances, genetic connections and matching

Time	Session
9.15	Tea and Coffee
9.30	‘From Family Memory to Digital Record: Exploring personal heritage in the 21st century’ Dr Nick Barratt (The National Archive, and genealogist for <i>Who Do You Think You Are?</i>) Chair: Dr Anne-Marie Kramer (Sociology, University of Nottingham)
10.30	Recording Identity ‘What Was Registration For? Civil registration in England and Wales since 1837’ Professor Eddie Higgs (History, University of Essex) ‘Recording Parenthood Prenatally: Problems of birth and death in the 21st century’ Professor Carol Sanger (Law, Colombia University) ‘Paper-working Parenthood: Birth registration and family law’ Dr Julie McCandless (Law, LSE)
12.30	Vegetarian lunch (provided)
1.00	Family Resemblances, Genetic Connections and Matching ‘Understanding Family Resemblances’ Professor Jennifer Mason (Sociology, University of Manchester) ‘Family Connections in Genes and Stories’ Dr Janice McLaughlin and Dr Emma Clavering (Sociology, University of Newcastle) ‘Practices of Matching in a Fertility Clinic’ Ms Venessa Smith (London Women’s Clinic)
2.30	“‘Daddy’s run out of tadpoles”: The views and experiences of donor-conceived children’ Professor Susan Golombok (Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge) Chair: Professor Emily Jackson (Law, LSE)
4.00	Close