



Keble MCR-SCR Social Sciences and Humanities Seminar

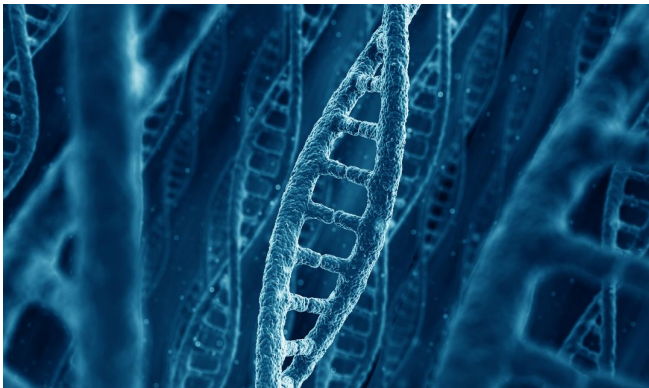
Tuesday 21st November 2017

5.30pm, Stafford Crane Room

Situated Uncertainty and Acceptable Contingency: Next Generation Sequencing in Clinical Practice

Dr Chris Goldsworthy

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As Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) becomes common practice in the diagnostic genetic setting it becomes important to examine the mediated and co-constructed impact NGS technologies have upon diagnostic laboratory and clinical practice. This is explored here in

relation to how the mutual situated co-configuration of the technology and the users redefines understandings of certainty and uncertainty associated with genetic and genomic data. I show how a maintained pragmatic understanding that genomic data and technology is in a constant state of uncertainty, termed acceptable contingency, enables laboratory workers to be able to adapt the technology and the data produced to meet their situated needs. I suggest that this process of situated uncertainty and acceptable contingency is only possible due to a deep technical understanding of the technology as well as an embeddedness within the space in which the technology and genomic data-bases are developed.



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