WTDTP Projects for September 2022

Project Reference: T4/43

Project Title: **Combining insights and analytical approaches from genomics and sociology to explore**

**trajectories of substance use by young people**

Theme(s): Theme 4: Ethical, legal and social implications of genomics and genomic epidemiology

Primary Supervisor: Dr Jason Hughes (University of Leicester)

Secondary Supervisor(s): Prof Frank Dudbridge (University of Leicester)

Department: Media, Communication and Sociology

Project Summary: The emerging field of sociogenomics considers how insights from genomics might be

incorporated into understandings of an array of social issues, from social mobility to

addiction. Key in this respect are Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) that are used

to develop polygenic risk scores that predict individual propensities to engage in risky

behaviours.

This project focuses on how sociogenomics might be combined and reconciled with

sociological approaches which stress the complex, fluid, and multi-faceted character of

social behaviour. Focusing on the onset and development of substance use behaviours

among young people, this study will develop an approach that more adequately combines

sociogenomic models, methods, techniques and insights with those from

processual/relationally-oriented sociology.