WTDTP Projects for September 2023

Project Reference: T4/61

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 studies

Primary Supervisor: Prof Jason Hughes (University of Leicester) [jh528@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:jh528@leicester.ac.uk)

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.