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| Project Reference | T4/75 |
| Project Title | **Examining the legal, ethical and social implications of advanced forensic genetic technologies** |
| Theme(s) | Theme 4: Ethical, legal and social implications of genomics and genomic epidemiology studies |
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| Project Summary | This PhD study will examine the rapid emergence and implementation internationally of emergent forensic genetic databasing techniques. It will identify and critically examine the social, legal, practical and ethical issues in relation, for example, to the use of direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing, Y-STR databases and associated ‘frequency’ databases, and the subsequent use of data by law enforcement agencies. The use of such data and technologies have come to the forefront of debate with questions around the potential introduction of universal DNA databases for forensic use possibly rendered moot by the extensive coverage of DTC databases and other emerging forensic genetic techniques (such as MPS and phenotyping). Internationally, there are tentative efforts to examine the forensic use of genealogy databases and frequency databases but no legal jurisdictions have specifically-targeted laws governing these emergent technologies, aside from permissive provisions with just one country expressing intentions to limit their use. Recent high-profile use in criminal cases are increasing pressures on other jurisdictions to adopt these emergent technologies making vital a framework for good governance of advanced technologies in forensic genetic testing. |