

Call for Posters & Presentations: Symposium Genetics as Culture in a Consumerist Age

**International Symposium
Innsbruck, Austria, 27-29 October 2011**

Obtaining individual health-related genomic information is no longer restricted to the clinical realm. Genome-wide analyses to identify genetic predispositions for a range of conditions, including rare diseases as well as common, multi-factorial diseases like cancer, diabetes, or heart disease, can be purchased online. Similarly, tests for genetic ancestry, paternity, or “recreational traits” such as athletic propensities, can be obtained direct-to-consumer (DTC) from commercial companies. Social networking tools are used by individuals not only to share their individual genetic profiles, but also to actively participate in disease research, thereby complicating some of the core categories that the organisation of disease research and health care rests upon: experts and lay persons, gate-keepers and specialists, and knowledge producers and knowledge recipients/consumers.

The ethical and legal debate about such developments has just started. This symposium will explore the mutual relationship between genetics, markets and societies in this field. Our aim is to facilitate an interdisciplinary debate on whether and how socio-cultural factors influence attitudes towards the usage of, and the belief in, *genetics2.0*. Furthermore, we seek to explore how individual and collective identities are challenged by cultural meanings of genetics.

The event will include explorations of the meanings of genetics at the interface of science and arts in cooperation with Priska Gisler, Institute for Transdisciplinarity, Bern University of the Arts, CH. In addition, the artwork *Con'Sequences* will be presented.

Organisers:

Gabriele Werner-Felmayer (Division of Biological Chemistry, Biocenter, and Bioethics Network Education, Medical University of Innsbruck, AT)

Silke Schicktanz (Culture and Ethics of Biomedicine, University of Göttingen, DE);

Barbara Prainsack (King's College London, UK)

In collaboration with:

Josef Quitterer (Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Theology, University of Innsbruck, AT)

Siegfried Walch (Managementcenter Innsbruck, AT)

Confirmed plenary speakers:

Troy Duster, Department of Sociology, New York University (USA)

Jennifer Fishman, Biomedical Ethics Unit, McGill University, Montreal (CA)

Florian Kronenberg, Division of Genetic Epidemiology, Medical University of Innsbruck (AT)

Colleen McBride, Public Health Genomics Section, National Human Genome Research Center, NIH, Bethesda (USA)

Gísli Pálsson, Department of Anthropology, University of Reykjavik (IS)

Aviad Raz, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ben Gurion University of the Negev (IL)

Sigrid Sterckx, Bioethics Institute, University of Gent (BE)

Daniel Vorhaus, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson P.A., North Carolina (USA)

Johannes Zschocke, Division of Human Genetics, Medical University of Innsbruck (AT)

Join the debate

We encourage submissions of abstracts for presentations exploring the theme of *Genetics as Culture in a Consumerist Age* from different disciplinary, or interdisciplinary, perspectives (especially bioethical, political, economic and social science, anthropological, and life science perspectives). Selected presentations should include a poster and will comprise a short (10min) discussion of at least one of the following topics:

- *Messages from the genome – state-of-the art and metaphors*: Analyses of recent approaches, images, and narratives from practical as well as sociological or philosophical perspectives on genetics and genomics;
- *The interplay of genetics, culture and new media – global and cross-cultural impacts*: Analyses of consumer cultures in connection with direct-to-consumer genetics and genomics;
- *The ethics of genetics – revisited in the light of consumerism, choice, and collective identities*: Bioethical and moral philosophical analyses of newly emerging problems as well as proposed solutions related to direct-to-consumer genetics and genomics and to the cultural dimensions of genetics and genomics;
- *Ancestry and identity – between knowledge and imaginations*: Sociological, cultural and political studies of kinship, collective identity and heritage;
- *Governance of genetics/markets in a global and virtual world*: Political, ethical, or socio-economic studies of procedures, gaps and trends in the field of (non)regulation of direct-to-consumer genetics and genomics.

Abstracts should not exceed 500 words, and they should be submitted to **ethucation@i-med.ac.at**. Please indicate in which of the five topical areas you see your presentation fit. Submission deadline is extended to **12 July 2011**; participants selected for presentation will be informed by 15 August 2011.

Host Institution: Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria

Venue: Hotel Grauer Bär, Universitätsstraße 5, A-6020 Innsbruck [<http://bit.ly/jOybZY>]

Conference rate: 70 Euro for single room including breakfast

How to get there: Innsbruck is easily accessible by car (A12, A13), train, or plane (directly via Frankfurt or Vienna, or via airport shuttle from Munich). For detailed travel information see [<http://bit.ly/iXKPVy>]

For queries and further details please contact Gabriele Werner-Felmayer at ethucation@i-med.ac.at

This CfP is also available online:

http://www.i-med.ac.at/ethucation/Veranstaltungen/cfp_270611.pdf

Symposium homepage on: <http://www.i-med.ac.at/ethucation/>