

All conference delegates are invited to attend and participate in:

**A roundtable working session on non-invasive prenatal genetic diagnostic technologies: Clinical and social futures**

Convenors: Dr Susan Kelly and Dr Hannah Farrimond, EGENIS

**Thursday 8 October 11.45am - 1.15pm**

**At the 2009 ESRC Genomics Network Conference  
Mapping the Genomic Era: Measurements and Meanings  
7-9 October, City Hall Cardiff**

A new range of technologies are under development or in limited use for the early and non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (NIPD) of certain genetic conditions. Currently, tests are available for fetal sex for sex-linked disorders, and for blood group determination. Non-invasive, early tests for aneuploidies such as Down Syndrome are in research stages and expected to be available for clinical use within a few years. Further and more extensive tests are under development, with the possibility of testing for whole fetal genomes in the future. Emerging technologies utilize a variety of instrumental platforms, and there continues to be considerable industry interest in antenatal diagnostic applications. Avoiding the physical risk to pregnancies associated with current invasive testing, non-invasive prenatal diagnostic procedures are likely to be introduced on a mass scale, affecting the majority of pregnant women and their partners, across a range of clinical, cultural, and regulatory settings. These and related issues are being examined by those engaged with the science and technologies of NIPD, and raise significant policy questions.

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together clinicians, social scientists, ethicists and others to engage in discussion of key issues raised by these developments, particularly those of clinical introduction and regulation. Following an introduction and brief presentations from each of the panel members, we will kick off by addressing the following question: will the clinical introduction of non-invasive prenatal testing lead to the re-examination by society and policy-makers of the ethical and social basis of prenatal testing, or should such discussions precede clinical introduction?

**Speakers:**

Dr. Susan E. Kelly, Senior Research Fellow, Egenis, University of Exeter  
(moderator) (currently conducting research on societal discourses regarding prenatal genetic testing)

Dr. Adam Bostanci, Lecturer (Social Science), Hughes Hall Centre for Biomedical Science in Society, University of Cambridge (currently examining the European regulatory context for prenatal genetic testing)

Dr. Annie Proctor, Clinical Director and Consultant Clinical Geneticist, All Wales Medical Genetics Service (clinical implications of introduction of this technology)  
Dr. Ainsley Newson, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Ethics, Centre for Ethics in Medicine, University of Bristol (recently concluded the SAFE Ethics Project on non-invasive prenatal diagnosis, and currently working on the RAPID project, funded by the National Institute for Health Research)

