



ELSI FRIDAY FORUM

ELSI Friday Forum

Friday, July 12, 2024 12-1 PM ET US/5pm GMT

Session Title:

Assessing and Reimagining the Role of ELSI in Creating Transformative Science

Date and time: Friday, July 12, 2024 | 12pm ET US / 9am PT US | 5pm GMT

Moderator: Wesley Oakes, PhD

Presenter: Jenny Reardon, PhD

Presenter: Paul Meller, MA, PhD

CERA Coordinator: Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, PhD

Staff: [Ashlin Amano](#), [David Lamb](#), [Faryn Fairweather](#), [Grace Morris](#)

Biographies

Moderator:

Dr. Wesley Oakes, PhD is Genome Canada's Director of Equity and Indigenous Engagement, an inaugural role established in 2022. Genome Canada is a national organization that supports genomics research to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians. As an applied sociocultural anthropologist, Wesley provides strategic leadership to the Genomics Research and Innovation Programs (GRIP) team, focusing on program design, ELSI integration, and external collaborations.

Wesley holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from York University, an MPhil from SOAS University of London, and a BA from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Link to full bio: <https://genomecanada.ca/team-directory/wesley-oakes/>

Panelist:

Dr. Jenny Reardon, PhD is the Founding Director of the Science and Justice Research Center at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research draws into focus questions about identity, justice and democracy that are often silently embedded in scientific ideas and practices, particularly in modern genomic research. Her training spans molecular biology, the history of



ELSI FRIDAY FORUM

biology, science studies, feminist and critical race studies, and the sociology of science, technology and medicine.

Link to full bio: <https://jereardon.sites.ucsc.edu/>

Panelist:

Dr. Paul Meller, MA, PhD is the Research Lead for Discovery Research at the Wellcome Trust, responsible for Wellcome's portfolio relating to populations and societies. As part of this role, he is co-leading Wellcome's 'Beyond the Sequence' programme, including a project aiming to foster greater collaboration between genomic scientists and researchers focused on the ethical, legal and social contexts of genomics. Before joining Wellcome, Paul worked at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and was Associate Director of Programmes at the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) overseeing a portfolio covering the creative industries, research infrastructure and knowledge exchange.

Paul has also worked in other parts of UKRI, including at the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as Head of Strategy, responsible for strategic planning and governance, and as Head of Data and Resources, managing the ESRC's investment in data infrastructure. Before that Paul spent several years working on different aspects of ESRC's portfolio including postgraduate training, setting up the first ESRC Doctoral Training Centres, and longitudinal studies. Whilst working at the Research Councils, Paul also spent time on secondment to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (now the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) where he advised on postgraduate policy and strategy. Paul holds a PhD in History from Durham University.

Link to full bio:

<https://elsicon2024.eventscribe.net/fsPopup.asp?PresenterId=1777372&mode=presenterinfo>

ELSIhub Collections

ELSIhub Collections are essential reading lists on fundamental or emerging topics in ELSI, curated and explained by expert collection editors. Please use the link to access “Establishing Affirming Genetic Counseling Services for Transgender, Gender-Expansive, and Intersex Patients” curated by Lex N. Powers, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor, Division of Craniofacial Medicine, Seattle Children’s Hospital; Tala Berro, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor, Department of Genetics, Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center; Kimberly Zayhowski, MS, CGC, Assistant Professor and Genetic Counselor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine; and Robin L. Bennett, MS, CGC, ScD



ELSI FRIDAY FORUM

Hon, Professor of Medicine, Division of Medical Genetics, Department of Medicine, University of Washington.

<https://doi.org/10.25936/wahm-6x11>

[FROM OUR PANELISTS]

Jenny Reardon, PhD:

<https://leed.ucsc.edu/>

<https://leed.ucsc.edu/2023/01/31/cellpress-trustworthiness-matters/>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15265161.2023.2214055>