

Genomic testing in health care: engaging the public in the issues

As part of the University's lifelong learning programme, the Clinical Ethics and Law Southampton (CELS) unit ran a highly successful public engagement study day on Saturday 16th January, entitled *Genetic Medicine: what are the ethical issues?*

Clinical Ethics and Law Southampton ([CELS](#)), is a multi-disciplinary research group that explores ethical and legal issues in health care practice through conceptual and empirical research, innovative teaching and public dialogue. Members of the CELS team presented a series of interactive sessions about genetic and genomic practice covering issues such as: the familial implications of genomic testing, management of incidental findings and the ability to predict clinical information from before conception to after death. The event included an informal 'World café' session to engage participants in conversations about the issues and an exhibition showcasing work exploring the intersection between art and science.

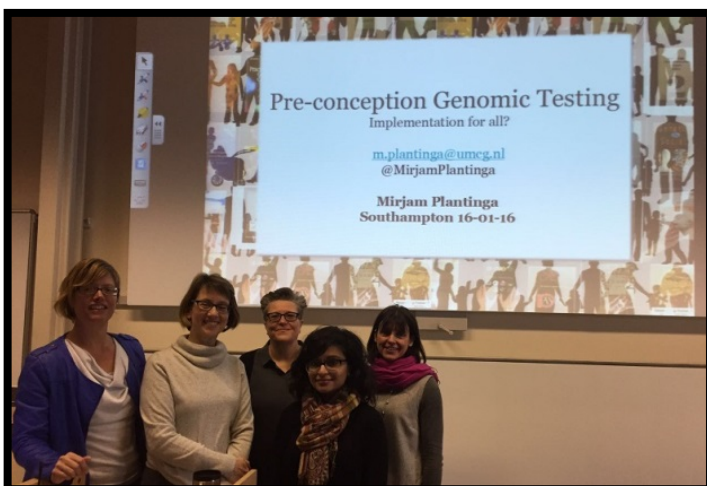
Genomic England's 100 000 genomes project featured throughout the day, especially as CELS researchers are also members of the Wessex Genome Centre, one of 11 such centres around the UK recruiting to the project.

The day was highly evaluated by participants and here are just a few comments:

"Allowed me to understand the issues in more depth and form an idea about different perspectives."

"Very helpful indeed in putting choices in a wider scientific context."

"Really grateful that you reach out to a wider community, thank you."



"This team of women scientists was absolutely first class. Thank you VERY MUCH."

**Some of the members of the CELS team (l to r):
Mirjam Plantinga, Anneke Lucassen, Angela Fenwick,
Sandi Dheensa, Gillian Crawford**

"Really excellent, thought provoking. Enjoyed both the presenters and the questions and comments of the participants"



World café in action



Sample of art exhibited by artist in residence Halina Bainbridge



CELS have an ongoing public engagement programme and information about other events and our research can be found on our website: www.soton.ac.uk/cels.