

Coming Fall 2010

Genetic Justice

DNA Data Banks, Criminal Investigations, and Civil Liberties

Sheldon Krimsky and Tania Simoncelli

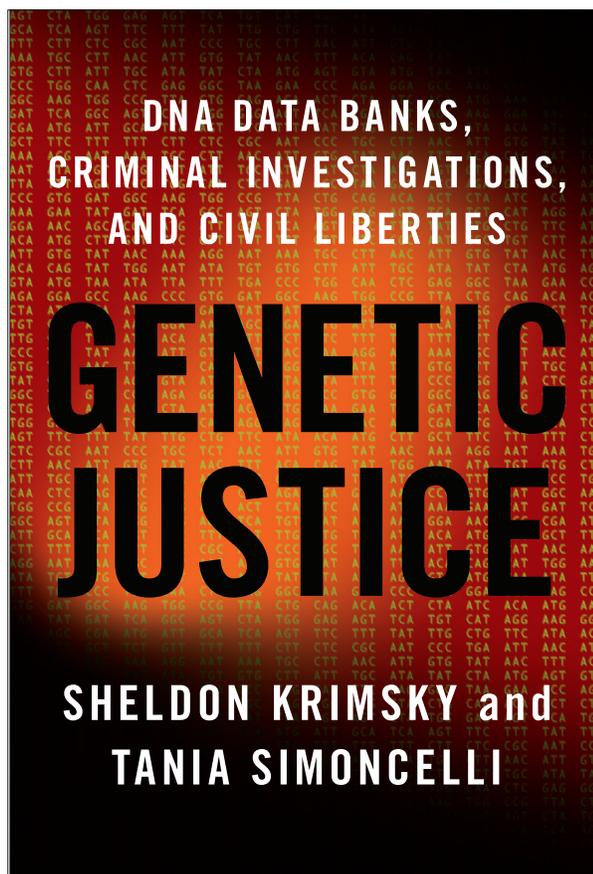
Two prominent advisors on medical ethics, science policy, and civil liberties take a hard look at how the United States has balanced the use of DNA technology, and in particular the use of DNA databanks, in criminal justice with the privacy rights of its citizenry. Sheldon Krimsky and Tania Simoncelli analyze the constitutional, ethical, and sociopolitical implications of expanded DNA collection in the United States and compare these findings to trends in other nations—the UK, Australia, Japan, Germany, and Italy. They examine the development of legal precedent for taking DNA from juveniles, searching DNA databases for possible family members of suspects, conducting “DNA dragnets” of large local populations, and the warrantless acquisition by police of so-called abandoned DNA as they search for suspects. Most intriguing, Krimsky and Simoncelli explode the myth that DNA profiling is infallible, which has profound implications for criminal justice.

SHELDON KRIMSKY is professor of urban and environmental policy and planning and adjunct professor of public health and community medicine at Tufts University. He is the author of *Science in the Private Interest: Has the Lure of Profit Corrupted Biomedical Research?* and has consulted for the Presidential Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research and the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

TANIA SIMONCELLI worked for more than six years as the ACLU’s science advisor, where she guided the organization’s responses to cutting-edge developments in biotechnology, neuroscience, and public health policy. She has written extensively on emerging forensic DNA techniques and practices and their legal and social implications.

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