



Talk Title:

„Best Practises of Forensic DNA Phenotyping (FDP): Experiences and insights from the UK“

Debates on Forensic DNA Phenotyping (FDP) have intensified in Germany since recently. Experts, practitioners, politicians and the public are divided upon the questions whether, when, in which cases, and under what conditions these new technologies could and should be applied (or not). Proponents often point to their successful implementation in the Netherlands and in the UK, without mentioning details about *how* and in what frameworks the techniques are being used in these countries.

What might be gained by taking a closer look at the situations in these two countries? Under what circumstances does it make sense to apply FDP? Denise Syndercombe-Court provides first-hand insights into the practises, complexities and regulatory issues of FDP. She draws on her vast and detailed experiences gained by her research, her reporting on cases, and her memberships in numerous institutions and state bodies dealing with forensic DNA analyses.

Bio:

Denise Syndercombe Court is a world leading expert in forensic genetics, and has crucially contributed to establishing best practises of forensic DNA analyses, both for criminal justice and for civil matters. Syndercombe-Court gained her PhD at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1984, where she remained as an academic in forensic haematology until 2012, when she moved to King's College as a Reader, and now Professor, in Forensic Genetics. She is both a Chartered Biologist and Chartered Scientist and has qualifications in medical science and medical statistics. She has taught medicine and forensic biology at undergraduate and post-graduate levels for more than twenty years and as a researcher has been actively involved in European funded research initiatives: STADNAP, SnpForId and EuroForGen. She has more than twenty year's experiences as a forensic expert, reporting in relation to criminal cases in a vast number of cases. Hers is an enormous track record of government advising and advanced training for all sorts of professional groups involved in criminal justice. She is director of an ISO17025 accredited laboratory and appointed by the Ministry of Justice for relationship testing. In addition to her scientific achievements, Syndercombe Court has contributed actively to debates on ethical and juridical issues in Forensic DNA analyses.

Curriculum Vitae (forensic related)

Full name: Yvonne Denise SYNDERCOMBE COURT

Expertise

DNA and blood pattern analysis for criminal justice; DNA statistical analysis of complex mixtures; DNA analysis for civil matters (immigration and complex relationships)

Qualifications

- MSB CBiol FIMBS CSciDMedTMFSSoc PhD

Membership details of professional bodies

- Member of the Society of Biology
- Fellow of the Institute of Biological and Medical Sciences
- Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society
- Member of the International Society for Forensic Genetics
- Member of the British Academy for Forensic Sciences
- Member of the Forensic Science Society
- Member of the Biochemical Society
- Diploma in Forensic Statistics
- Accredited Expert Witness (Cardiff University)
- Member of the International Society of Blood Pattern Analysts
- Affiliate member of the Royal College of Physicians Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Case history and/or statistics

- Over 400 expert reports prepared in relation to criminal cases as a result of instruction by the defence, and occasionally by the prosecution
- Advice and attendance in court to give expert evidence in a large number of cases

General Background

- Recognised Teacher, University of London, 1993 – date
- Blood Tester to the Lord Chancellor, 1993 – 2005
- Director of laboratory accredited to ISO17025 and appointed by the Ministry of Justice for relationship testing 2007 to date
- Consultant in Evidence Based Medicine to National Training and Research Appraisal Group, 1994 to date
- European DNA Profiling (EDNAP) UK representative, 1998 – date
- Expert witness –criminal haemogenetics, 1999 – date
- Consultant in statistics to VieLife, 2001 – 2006
- Consultant in DNA to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 2002
- External examiner: MSc in DNA Profiling – Lancaster University 2003 - 2007
- Inter-collegiate examiner: MSc in Forensic Science, King's College London 2005 - 2009
- Secretary-General, British Academy of Forensic Sciences, 2006 – date
- Secretary International Society for Forensic Genetics (English Speaking Working Group) 2007 – date
- International Society for Forensic Genetics advisor on DNA to the UK Forensic Regulator 2010 - date

Laboratory accreditations

- ISO17025 (7850)

Any other details

- Member of European Forensic Genetics Network of Excellence (EuroforGen-NoE)
- Reader in Forensic Genetics, King's College London
- Editor and author of more than 50 peer-reviewed publications in the field.