

Adelphi Genetics Forum

Conference on

Living with the Eugenic Past

Wellcome Trust Lecture Hall

The Royal Society

6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG
on

Wednesday, 5th October, 2022

Admission is **FREE**, but strictly by ticket, available from:

www.eventbrite.co.uk

or The General Secretary

Adelphi Genetics Forum

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Speakers and Chairpersons

Professor Joe Cain	Professor of History and Philosophy of Biology, UCL
Dr Brian Donovan	Senior Research Scientist, BSCS Science Learning, Colorado
Professor Michele Bratcher Goodwin	Chancellor's Professor of Law & Director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy, University of California Irvine
Professor Turi King	President, Adelphi Genetics Forum & Professor of Public Engagement and Genetics, Department of Genetics and Genome Biology, University of Leicester
Professor Anneke Lucassen	Professor of Genomic Medicine & Director of the Centre for Personalised Medicine, University of Oxford; Professor of Clinical Genetics, University of Southampton
Reverend Professor Keith Magee	Professor of Practice of Social Justice & Chair, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle University
Professor Gregory Radick	Vice President, Adelphi Genetics Forum & Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds
Professor Angelique Richardson	Professor of English, University of Exeter
Ms Elaine Riddick	Chairperson, Rebecca Project for Justice, Georgia
Dr Adam Rutherford	Lecturer, Department of Genetics, UCL
Professor Tom Shakespeare	Co-Director, International Centre for Evidence and Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Professor Zofia Stemplowska	Professor of Political Theory & Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Justice, University of Oxford

**Conference organiser:
Professor Gregory Radick**

Living with the Eugenic Past

- 9:50-10:00 **Welcome and introduction**
Professor Gregory Radick
- 10:00-10:40 **Chair: Professor Angelique Richardson**
Ms Elaine Riddick
Liberation from Eugenics: A Black Woman's Perspective
- 10:40-11:10 **COFFEE**
- 11:10-11:50 **Chair: Professor Tom Shakespeare**
Professor Joe Cain
Why Invest in Eugenics? The Case of University of London
- 11:50-12:30 **Professor Zofia Stemplowska**
Commemoration and Mitigation of Injustice: The Special Difficulties of Commemorating Victims of Eugenics
- 12:30-13:30 **LUNCH**
- 13:30-14.10 **Chair: Reverend Professor Keith Magee**
Dr Brian Donovan
Genomic Literacy Matters for Dismantling White Supremacist Culture
- 14:10-14.50 **Professor Anneke Lucassen**
Genomic Medicine, Diverse Data and the Language of Race, Ancestry and Ethnicity
- 14:50-15:20 **TEA**
- 15:20-16:20 **Chair: Professor Turi King**
Adelphi Lecture 2022
Dr Adam Rutherford
Eugenics and the Misuse of Mendel
- 16:20-17:00 **Professor Michele Bratcher Goodwin**
A Eugenic Philosophy that's Hard to Die

Adelphi Genetics Forum – formerly the Galton Institute

You will have seen that the Galton Institute has undergone a name change becoming the Adelphi Genetics Forum. So why have we decided to do this?

The Galton Institute was named after Sir Francis Galton who, as you will know, was a hugely important scientist working in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He was one of the founding fathers of the science of genetics as well as making foundational contributions to other fields including statistics, meteorology and psychology.

However, some of his views and his work have darker implications. Along with many scholars of his time he held views about race and social class which might have been acceptable then but definitely are not now. Among these, he introduced and fostered the ideas of eugenics.

Galton described eugenics as the scientific study of factors which affect the what-he-called ‘inborn qualities of humans and future generations’ but developed this to the ‘breeding out’ of so called “undesirable” characteristics from the human population by excluding people judged to be inferior and promoting those judged to be superior. It was these ideas that sparked the formation of the Eugenics Education Society, which later became the Galton Institute.

To be clear, the new Forum completely rejects his and all other eugenic and racist ideas as morally unacceptable and scientifically flawed, and nothing the current Forum does in any way supports or furthers such ideas. Nor have we ever benefitted financially from Francis Galton. Thus, while we would still wish to honour Galton’s immense scientific achievement, it was decided it was time to discuss a possible name change.

Hence a working group of trustees was formed to discuss the issue, first whether or not it was felt a name-change was required, and then to consider what that new name might be. After discussion, it was decided that having his name attached to the Institute threatens to affect our ability to carry out our mission of furthering the scientific study of all aspects of human heredity within society. It was felt that keeping the Galton name suggests that, at best, we are insensitive to the connotations and perception of Galton from the viewpoint of modern society and, at worst, suggests that we support all his ideas.

Therefore, it was decided that a name change was necessary and, after many hours of deliberations, the name Adelphi Genetics Forum: Exploring Genetics and Society was chosen for the following reasons. It was felt that we cannot and should not cover up the origins of the Institute. Not least because part of our work is to show how flawed that thinking was and how far science has moved us from these ideas. And therefore the name references that the first offices of the Eugenics Education Society were in the Adelphi District of London, at 6 York Buildings.

The literal translation of the Greek Adelphi is brothers but as well as meaning brother or sibling, it means fraternity, with no gender implication, and friends with mutual respect. We therefore feel “Adelphi” is suitable as it gives a sense of family, community and support. Hence we are acknowledging where the Institute started but also more firmly gesturing toward the future and how the Forum can continue to help educate and inform about human heredity and society.

Professor Turi King
President of the Adelphi Genetics Forum

This first annual conference since the change of name is, appropriately, devoted to the larger theme of “living with the eugenic past.” No previous conference in this series has included a representative from a victims’ rights organization. The conference organiser, Greg Radick, would like to thank the CEO of the Rebecca Project for Justice, Jeff Canady, for several valuable suggestions as to possible speakers and chairpersons.