

Reading the Fine Print: An Introduction to the World of Personal Genomics and Wrap Contracts by Dr Andelka M Phillips

Admission is free. To register, please click [here](#).

INTRODUCTION Dr Phillips will discuss her ongoing research on the direct-to-consumer genetic testing (DTC) industry, drawing upon her book *Buying Your Self on the Internet: Wrap Contracts and Personal Genomics*, which will be published in June 2019 by Edinburgh University Press, as part of their Future Law series.

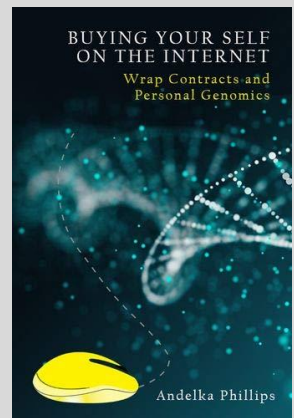
The DTC industry has developed over the last two decades. It has created a market for DNA tests as consumer services, bringing them outside the clinic and into the domestic space. Individuals in this space can now be viewed as consumers, rather than patients, and these services pose challenges for existing regulations. Genetic data is also sensitive data. It can serve as a unique identifier for individuals, and it can be used to trace family members and also for a wide range of secondary research purposes. Hence there are significant privacy risks to consider in this context.

The industry offers tests for diverse purposes. These range from tests for health conditions to the increasingly popular category of ancestry testing, tests for genetic relatedness (most commonly paternity), and more dubious tests for child talent and 'infidelity' or matchmaking.

This talk will provide an introduction to the DTC industry and the issues these services raise for law and society more generally. This will include an overview of the variety of tests available, discussion of the contracts used by DTC companies, and the privacy issues these services raise.

The book uses the example of DTC genetic testing companies that use wrap contracts as their dominant means of governance, to show the challenges that disruptive technologies pose for societies and regulation. The book

- reviews 71 wrap contracts used by DTC companies providing health testing,
- explores broader issues with online contracting, and
- sets an agenda for improving regulation and the online contracting environment.



SPEAKER Dr Andelka M Phillips is a Senior Lecturer at Te Piringa Faculty of Law and a Research Associate with the University of Oxford's Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies (HeLEX). Her recent research has focussed on the regulation of direct-to-consumer genetic tests, examining the industry's use of wrap contracts (browserwrap and clickwrap). This is the subject of her forthcoming book entitled *Buying Your Self on the Internet: Wrap Contracts and Personal Genomics*, which will be published by Edinburgh University Press as part of its Future Law series in June 2019. She is also co-editing, with Professor Jonathan Herring and Dr Thana C de Campos, *Philosophical Foundations of Medical Law*, which will be published as part of Oxford University Press's Philosophical Foundations of Law series in 2019.

Andelka was formerly the Usher Assistant Professor in Information Technology Law and the Convenor of the Technology, Law and Society Research Group in the Law School at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. She has also taught at the University of Oxford and the University of Auckland. She completed her doctorate at Oxford and her doctoral research examined the use of online wrap contracts (clickwrap and browserwrap) and the protection of consumers' rights in their genetic information in the context of direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing. While at Oxford, she was the General Editor of the *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal* and also convened the Oxford Medical Law and Ethics Discussion Group and the Oxford Privacy Information Law and Society Discussion Group.