

Guest Lecture by
Prof. Dr. Denise Syndercombe-Court

**“Best Practices of Forensic DNA Phenotyping (FDP):
Experiences and insights from the UK”**



As a contribution to the current debate on Forensic DNA Phenotyping in Germany, Denise Syndercombe-Court will present the findings from her newest research.

When? Friday, July 14th, 17 – 19h

Where? Universitätsbibliothek, Veranstaltungssaal, 1. OG

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 practices, 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.

Curriculum Vitae:

Denise Syndercombe-Court is a world leading expert in forensic genetics, and has crucially contributed to establishing best practices 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 is now Professor in Forensic Genetics at King's College London. 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.

Website: <https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/denise.syndercombe-court.html>

The talk is hosted and introduced by the Chair for Science and Technology Studies and University College Freiburg together with the multidisciplinary initiative STS@Freiburg. For more information, see: <https://stsfreiburg.wordpress.com/>