Narrating the New Predictive Genetics

This book explores the way changes in technology have altered the relationship between ethics and medicine. For some inherited diseases, new genetic testing technologies may provide much more accurate diagnostic and predictive information which raises important questions about consent, confidentiality and the use of information by family members and other third parties. What are the implications of this knowledge for individuals and their families? And for society more widely? How should this new information be used? How do people deal with the apparent choices that new knowledge and technologies offer? Drawing on extensive ethnographic research with families affected by Huntington’s Disease and using perspectives from medical and cultural anthropology, the author explores the huge disparity between the experience of living with the results of genetic testing and the knowledge and expertise which are drawn on to develop policy and clinical services.

Monica Konrad teaches at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge and directs the PLACEB-O research group (Partners Linked Across Collaborations in Ethics and the Biosciences – Orbital). Her research addresses the relevance of contemporary anthropology for global governance in science, international ethics and interdisciplinary studies. She is the author of Nameless Relations: Anonymity, Melanesia and Reproductive Gift Exchange between British Ova Donors and Recipients and currently acts as anthropological advisor to bioethics councils in the UK and for the UN.
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MONICA KONRAD
University of Cambridge
For my mother
## Contents

**Acknowledgements**  page xi

**Introduction**  1

**I  ETHNOGRAPHY AS LINKAGE MAP**

1  **Thinking futures**  9  
   Lives to come  9  
   Bodies into oracles  15  
   Ethno-ethics and the encounter with biology  20  
   Narrating Huntington’s Disease families  22  
   Organisation of the book  26  

2  **Approaching translocations**  29  
   Cross-talking value  29  
   Sociobiology as a new modern synthesis?  39  
   Code words  47  
   A genethics synthesis for the 21st century?  50  

**II  ‘HOME TRUTHS’**

3  **Foretelling foreknowledge**  61  
   Verbal missiles and disclosure talk  61  
   Experimental technology as anticipatory ritual  65  
   What does it mean to be ‘pre-symptomatic’?  83  

4  **Tracing genealogies of non-disclosure**  87  
   Dilemmas of truth telling in conventional bioethics  87  
   Embodiment and moral knowledge  90  
   Foreknowledge and the liabilities of veracity  100
III RELATIONAL ETHICS IN PRACTICE

5 Reproducing exclusion  
Testing kin loyalty  
Blood may be thicker than water, but genes don’t only cross sexes . . .  
Discussion: refiguring heredity as social anatomies of interdependence

6 Relinquishing exclusion  
Pre-implanting a story  
De-selecting life and redescribing relative disloyalties  
Summary: the ‘new genetic family’

7 Concluding remarks  
Predictive medicine is a complex art  
Contexts teach  
(The myth of) pre-emptive individualism  
Linkage by translocation

Appendix
Notes
Bibliography
Index
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Monica Konrad
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