

Stuart Nicholls Curriculum Vitae

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Contact details

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Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine,
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Research

My research centres on the ethical, legal and social issues around genetics (and genomics), reproductive technologies, and public health.

I am an advocate of mixed methods approaches and interdisciplinary research and bring with me experience and training in both qualitative and advanced quantitative methods. In particular I am interested in public or patient experiences, how technologies can be evaluated and how people make decisions regarding their acceptability.

Methodologically I have a keen interest in latent variable methods such as structural equation modelling, latent class analysis, item response theory, and multilevel modelling.

Education and Qualifications

Period	Qualification
2007 - 2010	PhD Applied Social Statistics. "Considering consent: an analysis of factors influencing parental perceptions of decisional quality in the context of newborn screening" <i>Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Lancaster University.</i>
2006 - 2007	MRes (distinction) Applied Social Statistics. "Analysis of breast cancer risk for women in the North West and implications for risk presentation." <i>Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Lancaster University.</i>
2001 - 2002	MSc (dissertation receiving distinction) health Care Ethics. "Choosing Children: Is determining the genetic make up of our children the next step in evolution, or is this an abhorrent and immoral possibility?" <i>Department of Primary Care, University of Liverpool</i>
1997 - 2000	Bsc (Hons) Genetics, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Leeds

Employment

Period	Role and employer
2011 – present	Post-doctoral fellow/ Research Associate, CIHR Emerging Team in Genomics in Screening/ OHRI CEP Knowledge Translation, Quality and Safety Research Theme, Department of Epidemiology & Community Medicine, University of Ottawa, Canada
2010 – 2011	IDEFICS Research Associate. Politics, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK
2003 - 2006	User Engagement Officer. The North West Genetics Knowledge Park (Nowgen), University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

Membership of Societies or Special Interest Groups

Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society	Committee (publications)	2001 - present
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As a committee member for the PFGS I have been responsible for the organisation of the PFGS Colloquium 12: “Bio and social sciences – a critical collaboration?” - 11th-12th December 2008 at the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), Lancaster University, Lancaster. I have also been actively involved in the organisation of the PFGS programme of regional meetings. I was also part of the PFGS committee in 2009/2010 that successfully secured renewed funding from the ESRC Genomics Forum for the continued financial support of PFGS activities.

British Society of Human Genetics (BSHG)	Member	2003 - present
Society for Social Studies of Science	Member	2007 – 2009
Society for Applied Philosophy	Member	2011 - present
American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)	Member	2011 - present

Awards

Awarding body	Year	Amount
Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) Prize for Excellence in Learning	2007	£100.00

Funding

Year	Source	Amount	Purpose
2011	Society for Applied Philosophy	£430.00	Research
Co-applicant (with Kristin Voigt and Garrath Williams) on the successful application to fund the workshop "Public Health, Equity and Interventions", held at Lancaster University on 25th March 2011.			
2011	Institute for Medical Ethics	£250.00	Research
Co-applicant (with Kristin Voigt and Garrath Williams) on the successful application to fund the workshop "Public Health, Equity and Interventions", held at Lancaster University on 25th March 2011.			
2008-2010	Genomics Forum	£6,000.00	Research
Co-applicant (with Molly Morgan, Stevianna de Saille and Rachel Douglas-Jones) for funds to support the organisation and meeting costs of the Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS)			

Publications

Nicholls, S.G. (2011) Proceduralisation, choice and parental reflections on decisions to accept newborn bloodspot screening. *Journal of Medical Ethics* (submitted)

Nicholls, S.G., Southern, K.W. (2011) Parental information use when learning about newborn bloodspot screening. An exploratory mixed methods study. *Patient Education and Counseling* (submitted)

Nicholls, S.G., Gwozdz, W., Reisch, L.A., Voigt, K. (2011) Fiscal food policy: equity and practice. *Perspectives in Public Health*, 131 (4): 157-158

Nicholls, S.G. (2011) *Progress in Bioethics. Science, Policy, and Politics*, by Jonathan D. Moreno and Sam Berger (Editors). Reviewed in *Metapsychology Online Reviews*, 15(5).

Wickins-Drazilova D., **Nicholls S,** Williams, G, Börnhorst C, Grafström C, De Henauw S, Marild S, Molnar D, Moreno Aznar L.A, Pigeot I, Siani A, Tornaritis M, Veidebaum T, Ahrens W, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium, (2010) "Parental views on public-policy options regarding healthy eating", *Proceedings of the 9th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics on Global Food Security: Ethical and Legal Challenges*, pp. 184-188

Nicholls S. (2010) Knowledge or understanding? Informed choice in the context of newborn bloodspot screening. *Public Health Ethics*, 3(2): 128-136.

Nicholls S, (2010). *The body in bioethics*, by Alastair V. Campbell. Reviewed in: *Medical Law Review*, 18: 120-125.

McAllister M, Payne K, Macleod R, **Nicholls S,** Donnai D, Davies L.M. (2008) What process attributes of clinical genetics services could maximise patient benefits? *European Journal of*

Human Genetics. 16(12): p1467-76

McAllister M, Payne K, Macleod R, **Nicholls S**, Donnai D, Davies L.M. (2008) Patient empowerment in clinical genetics services. *Journal of health psychology*. 13(7): p895-905

Payne K, **Nicholls S**, McAllister M, Macleod R, Donnai D, Davies L.M. (2008) Outcome measurement in clinical genetics services: a systematic review of validated measures. *Value in Health*. 11(3): p497-508

McAllister M, Davies L.M, Payne K, **Nicholls S**, Donnai D, MacLeod R. (2007) The emotional effects of genetic diseases: implications for clinical genetics. *American Journal of Medical Genetics*. 143(22): p2651-2661

Payne K, **Nicholls S**, McAllister M, MacLeod R, Ellis I, Donnai D, Davies L.M. (2007) Outcome measures for clinical genetics services: a comparison of genetics healthcare professionals and patients' views. *Health Policy*. 84(1): p112-122

McAllister M, Payne K, **Nicholls S**, MacLeod R, Donnai D, Davies L.M (2007) Improving service evaluation in clinical genetics: identifying effects of genetic diseases on individuals and families. *Journal of Genetic Counseling*; 16(1): p71-83.

Published abstracts

Nicholls, S.G., Southern, K.W., (2011) Parental selection and use of information when learning about newborn bloodspot screening. *Pediatric Pulmonology*: (forthcoming, November 2011).

Nicholls, S.G. Williams, G. (2011) "The parent versus the state: responsibility in childhood obesity." *Obesity Reviews* 12, (Suppl. 1): p38

Nicholls S.G, Williams G, Wickins-Drazilova D, Siani A, De Henauw S, Marild S, Molnar D, Moreno L.A, Tornaritis M, Veidebaum T, Pigeot I, and Ahrens W, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium. (2011) "Money' s too tight (to mention) : taxation and subsidisation as obesity intervention measures." *International Journal of Obesity*; 35: pS159

McAllister, Payne K, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H, Donnai D, Davies L.(2006) "Evaluation of clinical genetics services – a qualitative study identifying outcome measures". *Eur J Hum Genet*: 14: Suppl I EPL12

Nicholls S, Hyatt J, Slattery R, Donnai D, Middleton-Price HR. (2005) "Human Genetics and Society: a novel public engagement activity" *Journal of Medical Genetics*; 42 Suppl 1: pS120

McAllister M, Payne K, Davies L, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H and Donnai D. (2004) "How can we measure whether clinical genetic services are effective?" *Journal of Medical Genetics*; 41 Suppl 1: pS47

Davies L, Payne K, McAllister M, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H and Donnai D. (2004) "Developing appropriate models of service delivery in clinical genetics". *Journal of Medical Genetics*; 41 Suppl 1: pS47

Nicholls S, Middleton-Price H, and Davies L. (2004) "Making Written Information More

Accessible". *Journal of Medical Genetics*; 41 Suppl 1: pS85

Selected Conference Contributions

Nicholls, S.G., Southern, K.W. "Parental selection and use of information when learning about newborn bloodspot screening." *Accepted as a poster at the annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference (NACFC), Anaheim, California, USA, 2-5 November 2011.*

Nicholls, S.G. "Parental reflections on choice and decisions to accept newborn bloodspot screening." *Accepted as a poster at the 12th International Congress on Human Genetics (ICHG)/ 61st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), Montreal, Canada, 11-15 October 2011.*

Nicholls, S.G., Williams, G, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium. "The parent vs the state: responsibility in childhood obesity." *Accepted as an oral presentation at the 18th European Congress on Obesity ECO2011, Istanbul, Turkey, 25-28 May 2011*

Nicholls, S.G., Voigt, K, Siani, A, De Henauw, S, Marild, S, Molnár, D, Moreno, L.A., Tornaritis, M, Veidebaum, T, Pigeot, I, Ahrens, W, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium. Price strategies and health inequalities: support for taxation of unhealthy foods among low-income groups in European countries. *Accepted as a poster with presentation at the "Promoting Health Equity: Action on the Social Determinants of Health" conference, Toronto, Canada, 11-12 February 2011.*

Nicholls, S.G., Williams, G, Wickins-Drazilova, D, Siani, A, De Henauw, S, Marild, S, Molnár, D, Moreno, L.A., Tornaritis, M, Veidebaum, T, Pigeot, I, Ahrens, W, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium. Public attitudes toward taxation and subsidisation as obesity intervention measures: results from the IDEFICS parental questionnaire. *Accepted as a poster with presentation at the European Childhood Obesity Group (ECOG) meeting "ECOG 2010 and beyond. Taking childhood obesity off the menu." 17-20 November 2010.*

Nicholls, S.G., Williams, G, Wickins-Drazilova, D, Siani, A, De Henauw, S, Marild, S, Molnár, D, Moreno, L.A., Tornaritis, M, Veidebaum, T, Pigeot, I, Ahrens, W, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium. Money's too tight (to mention): Taxation and subsidisation as obesity intervention measures. *Accepted as a poster at the IDEFICS - 4th Meeting of the general assembly 8-12 November 2010.*

Wickins-Drazilova D, **Nicholls S,** Williams G, Börnhorst C, Grafström L, De Henauw S, Marild S, Molnar D, Aznar LAM, Pigeot I, Siani A, Tornaritis M, Veidebaum T and Ahrens W, on behalf of the IDEFICS consortium. Parental views on public-policy options regarding healthy eating. *Accepted as a paper for the 9th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe), 16-18 September 2010.*

Nicholls SG. Modelling parental decisions for newborn bloodspot screening. Paper presented at 33rd Research Student Conference in Probability and Statistics, 12-14 April 2010.

Nicholls SG. PGD: Hype or Hope? Paper given at the Regional meeting of the Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS) 20th November 2009.

Nicholls SG. 'To me it was just one thing that happened': parental consent and newborn bloodspot screening. Paper given at the British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Annual

Conference, Manchester, UK. 3rd September 2009

Nicholls SG. From knowledge to understanding in newborn bloodspot screening. Implications and issues for increased parental education. *Paper given at the Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS) colloquium 12, December 2008.*

M. McAllister, K. Payne, **S. Nicholls**, R. Macleod, H. Middleton-Price, D. Donnai, L. Davies
“Evaluation of clinical genetics services - a qualitative study identifying outcome measures”
Accepted as spoken presentation at the European Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Genetics (EMPAG) May 2006.

Payne K, **Nicholls S**, McAllister M, MacLeod R, Donnai D, Davies LM. Developing outcome measures for genetics services: a Delphi survey. *Society of Medical Decision Making, 10th Biennial European Meeting, June 2006*

Payne K, **Nicholls S**, McAllister M, MacLeod R, Donnai D, Davies LM. Genetics professionals’ views of outcome measures for genetics services: a Delphi survey. *Accepted as an poster presentation at the International Congress of Human Genetics Conference, Brisbane, August 2006*

Nicholls S, McAllister M, Payne K, MacLeod R, Middleton-Price H, Donnai D, Davies LM. Evaluating clinical genetics services and the involvement of service users. *Involve Conference, 5th National Conference ‘People in Research’, September 2006*

McAllister M, **Nicholls S**, Payne K, MacLeod R, Middleton-Price H, Donnai D, Davies LM. Process and outcome in clinical genetics services: a new model developed from qualitative research. *Accepted as a poster presentation at the British Society of Human Genetics Conference, September 2006*

Nicholls S, Hyatt J, Slattery R, Donnai D, Middleton-Price HR. “Human Genetics and Society: a novel public engagement activity” *Accepted as a poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the British Society of Human Genetics, York, September 2005.*

Davies L, Payne K, McAllister M, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H and Donnai D. “Developing appropriate models of service delivery in clinical genetics” *Accepted as a poster presentation at Central Manchester and Manchester Children’s University Hospital NHS Trust Healthcare Science Week/ Research & Development Exhibition, October 2004.*

Nicholls S, Middleton-Price H, and Davies L. “Making Written Information More Accessible” *Accepted as a poster presentation at Central Manchester and Manchester Children’s University Hospital NHS Trust Healthcare Science Week/ Research & Development Exhibition, October 2004.*

McAllister M, Payne K, Davies L, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H and Donnai D. “How effective are clinical genetic services?” *Accepted as poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, Toronto, Canada, October 2004.*

McAllister M, Payne K, Davies L, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H and Donnai D. “How can we measure whether clinical genetic services are effective?” *Accepted as a poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the British Society of Human Genetics, York, September 2004.*

Davies L, Payne K, McAllister M, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R, Middleton-Price H and Donnai D.

“Developing appropriate models of service delivery in clinical genetics”. *Accepted as a poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the British Society of Human Genetics, York, September 2004.*

McAllister M, Payne K, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R & Davies L. “Towards valuing outcomes and preferences for clinical genetics services”. *Poster presentation at European Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Genetics, Munich, June 2004.*

Payne K, McAllister M, Davies D, **Nicholls S**, Macleod R & Middleton-Price H. “Towards valuing outcomes for genetic counselling services”. *Paper presented at the Oxford Genetics and Economics Workshop, April 2004.*

Other

Invited Spoken presentation “Routinisation, choice and parental reflections on decisions to accept newborn bloodspot screening”. *Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, 16 February 2011.*

Invited presentation “From Knowledge to Understanding: Informed Choice in the Context of Newborn Bloodspot Screening”. *Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine, University of Ottawa, 14 February 2011.*

Invited presentation “Newborn screening and the parent experience: a qualitative study”. *PEALS seminar series, Newcastle University, 14 May 2009.*

Spoken presentation “This isn't just any modelling, this is SEM modelling: Structural equation modelling within a mixed methods study of parental decision-making for newborn bloodspot screening.”, *Postgraduate Forum, Dept. Mathematics and Statistics, Lancaster University, 18 March 2009*

Spoken presentation “Parental consent to newborn bloodspot screening: making the case for a mixed methods approach.” given at Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS) regional meeting, School of Law, University of Sheffield, 17th March 2008.

Spoken presentation “Barriers to participation in health service research” given at Maintaining Standards in Research training day, Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust, 5 October 2005

Spoken presentation “Climbing the ladder: User engagement in research” given at the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust Research & Development Exhibition, Manchester, October 2004.

Official Reports

Nicholls S, Wilson S, Clancy T, Middleton-Price H. *Disability and Reproductive Choice: Report of a Nowgen/Life Knowledge Park joint workshop.* 2004; North West Genetics Knowledge Park (Nowgen).

Software

Working knowledge of software packages on both Windows, Apple and Linux platforms (Ubuntu) including: Microsoft office, Open office, Adobe publisher, STATA, R, SPSS, AMOS, Mplus, and LaTeX as well as Atlas.ti software for qualitative research and Endnote, jabRef, Mendeley and Reference Manager bibliographic software.

External and Professional Service

I have served as a reviewer for:

- Social Science & Medicine
- Genomics, Society & Policy
- Journal of Medical Ethics

Invited member of a steering committee for the service development project “Manchester Regional Genetic Service and Linked Trusts – Establish community-based genetics service in area of high incidence of autosomal recessive disorders” a Department of Health funded programme based in Blackburn and Darwin Primary Care Trust (PCT). June 2004 - September 2006

Lay reviewer for the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Programme Grants for Applied Research programme, July 2007

Teaching/tutoring

I have taught on or served as a tutor on the following courses:

- Phil552 - Foundations in bioethics
- Phil553 - Children and health
- MNGT525 - Quantitative & survey research methods
- PSYCH401 - Analysing and interpreting data 1
- ECOL335 - Statistics for biologists
- MATH230 – Probability
- short course “[Multi-Level Models](#)”, 21 – 22 April 2010
- short course CFAS426 STATA, 18-19 February 2009

Workshop Organisation

Date	Title	Location
25 March 2011	Public health, equity and interventions	Lancaster University Management School (LUMS), Lancaster University

Papers included: Sonia Tucci (University of Liverpool) "Fat bias: discrimination by association?", Pauline Emmett (University of Bristol) "Inequalities in childhood diet - evidence from a longitudinal study", and Angus Dawson (Keele University) "Preference change and ethical obesity policy"

19 April 2010	Genetics and behaviour: from the science to society	Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), Lancaster University
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Papers included: Andy Divers (Lancaster University) Behavioural Genetics: New Science, Old

Values? and Richard Holdsworth, (ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis) at the University of Exeter) Behavioural genomics: one discipline or many?

30 December 2008 PFGS Colloquium 12: Bio and social sciences – a critical collaboration? Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), Lancaster University

Papers included: Steve Sturdy (ESRC Genomics Forum) “Social science and bioscience: beyond the science wars?” and Ruth Chadwick (Cardiff University) “Gender and the human genome”.

10 June 2004 Disability and Reproductive Choice Hume Hall, University of Manchester

Report of the day was submitted to the Human Genetics Commission as part of their consultation on ‘*Choosing the future: genetics and reproductive decision making*’.

Continuing Education

Structural Equation modelling using Mplus. Prof. Joop Hox, Lancaster University, Lancaster. 25-27 May 2010. Course participant.

Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling using Mplus. IWP, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, 24 June, 2009. Course participant

Structural Equation Modelling. Lancaster University, Lancaster. 18-19 March 2009. Course participant

Essentials of Survey Design and Implementation. University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh. 29-31 October 2008. Course participant

TRANSLATING ELSI: Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Genomics , 1-3 May 2008. Cleveland, Ohio. Conference delegate.

FASS510, Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences, Lent term 2008 (part of the Research Training Programme for PhD)

Reference Manager Training, 22 February 2006, University of Manchester

Research Ethics Training Day. October 2005, University of Manchester

Introduction to study design, One day course, September 2004

References

Dr Mairi Levitt,
Senior Lecturer and HR
Director,
Department of Politics,
Philosophy and Religion
Lancaster University,
Lancaster

Professor Paul Fearnhead,
Professor of Statistics,
Department of Mathematics
and Statistics,
Lancaster University,
Lancaster

Dr Garrath Williams,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Politics,
Philosophy and Religion,
Lancaster University,
Lancaster