

# Biological Innovation and Legal Change: The Case of Forensic DNA Evidence

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Biology and society interrelate in the field of law: law influences biological innovation, such as in the area of patent law, and biological innovation creates conditions for revising existing laws and regulations. In this presentation, this relationship will be examined by reference to technical innovations and legal disputes concerning forensic DNA evidence from 1985 to the present.

Forensic DNA evidence underwent a series of legal challenges in the US and UK during the 1990s. After the controversy closed in the mid-1990s, DNA evidence was heralded as a revolutionary form of legal evidence, identified with scientific truth rather than legal credibility. This presentation traces the history of legal, technical, and administrative changes which have led to the identification of DNA with truth, and discusses some of the social and legal implications of this history.