

The Handbook is far more than the sum of its parts. It brings together a formidable international team of scholars, who provide both a comprehensive map of the field and an array of provocative arguments about the best ways to grasp its socio-technical complexities. The authors avoid the breathless, impressionable analysis that often characterises accounts of new technologies. Rather they give both the novice reader and the seasoned scholar a rigorous and exhaustive account of the multiple social contexts and ramifications of genetic innovation.

Catherine Waldby, International Research Fellow, Sydney University and Visiting Professor, Centre for Biomedicine and Society, Kings College, London

The *Handbook of Genetics and Society* provides an excellent map of this fast-moving research area. Established scholars, as well as newcomers to the field, will find this collection offers an invaluable guide to studies of genetics, genomics, and society.

Stephen Hilgartner, Department of Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University, USA

The editors of this comprehensive Handbook have done a great job in providing a synthetic and critical overview on the co-construction of contemporary genetics and society. The book aims at re-thinking the new bio-economies and the innovations that go into them in an era of genomics. The Handbook represents social science at its best. Its contents are well-informed and display an awareness of how the social sciences are themselves implicated in this rapidly developing field.

Hans-Joerg Rheinberger, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

An authoritative Handbook which offers a discussion of the social, political, ethical and economic consequences and implications of the new biosciences. The Handbook takes an interdisciplinary approach providing a synoptic overview of contemporary international social science research on genetics, genomics and the new life sciences. It brings together leading scholars with expertise across a wide-ranging spectrum of research fields related to the production, use, commercialisation and regulation of genetics knowledge. The Handbook is structured into seven cross-cutting themes in contemporary social science research on genetics with introductions written by internationally renowned section editors who take an interdisciplinary approach to offer fresh insights on recent developments and issues in often controversial fields of study. It explores local and global issues and critically approaches a wide range of public and policy questions, providing an invaluable reference source to a wide variety of researchers, academics and policy makers.

Paul Atkinson is Distinguished Research Professor in Sociology at Cardiff University. He has published extensively on the sociology of medical knowledge and qualitative research methods. He is co-editor of *Qualitative Research*, and is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Peter Glasner is Professorial Fellow in the ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen) at Cardiff University. His is co-editor of the journals *New Genetics and Society* and *21st Century Society*. He has a longstanding research interest in genetics, innovation and science policy. He is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Margaret Lock is Marjorie Brontman Professor Emerita at McGill University, Montreal. She is the author and editor of 14 books including the award winning *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death*. Her current research project is on molecular genetics and the social ramifications of testing for susceptibility genes. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

SOCIOLOGY/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES/GENETICS

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GENETICS AND SOCIETY

Series editors: Paul Atkinson, Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology, Cardiff University; Ruth Chadwick, Director, Cesagen, Cardiff University; Peter Glasner, Professorial Research Fellow for Cesagen, Cardiff University; and Bron Wynn, Associate Director, Cesagen, Lancaster University.

The books in this series, all based on original research, explore the social, economic and ethical consequences of the new genetic sciences. The series is based in the ESRC's Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics, the largest UK investment in social-science research on the implications of these innovations.