

Final Reading Summary
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Podcast - Dear Sugars: Who's Your Daddy? (2018) (focused on people who have learned family secrets because of services like 23andMe)

The first reading/podcast is a seemingly strange story of an 18 year old boy who finds out the people he grew up believing were his parents are actually his grandparents. Following that he found out that his eldest sister was actually his biological mother. Steve Lickteig, the 18 year old boy came to this conclusion thanks to the help of a DNA testing company and helps advise people who end up in similar situations.

CBC Radio. (2016). Sorry, that DNA test doesn't make you Indigenous. (This is an article and an accompanying radio story - you can choose to read this)

This article dives into how many people are discovering their Native American and requesting that they be granted Indigenous status. However, these citizenship statuses consider very different criteria than genetic ancestry tests. For example, having some genetic markers that match you to a specific group does not mean you have any connection in your recent heritage, such as you or close ancestors having experienced the communities of these groups. Genetic testing is a wonderful tool to trace back a lost, forgotten or erased past, but they are not verbose enough to grant citizenship to countries or groups.

Ducharme, J. (2018) A Major Drug Company Now Has Access to 23andMe's Genetic Data. Should You Be Concerned? Time.

One major concern with consumer grade genetic testing is where and if the data the company collects is going to be used. This article highlights the particular case of GlaxoSmithKline purchasing a \$300 million stake in 23andMe allowing them access to all of their genetic data. The real question that needs to be asked is, is there any reason why a user of 23andMe should be concerned about this. The answer is isn't crystal clear, however, what is clear is 23andMe's obligation to inform their user where their data will be used more clearly. Many consumers of 23andMe have agreed to, 'I'm okay if you use this information for medical research,' , the user should be made more aware of how their data is being used if the company is profiting from it.

Hernandez. S. (2019). One of the Biggest At-Home DNA Testing Companies is Working with the FBI. BuzzFeed News.

This article focuses on a DNA testing company 'FamilyTree', who is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to expand the reach of their database for future criminal investigations. FamilyTree announced its partnership with the FBI and stated that access to their databases "would help law enforcement agencies solve violent crimes faster than ever.", something that anyone who hasn't committed a crime shouldn't be against. However, some customers such as Leah Larkin "feel violated" by the use of her data and others' data.

Khandakar, T. (2018). Canada is Using Ancestry DNA Websites to Help it Deport People. Vice News.

Very similar to the FamilyTree situation discussed above, the Canadian Border Services Agency(CBSA) has started using the DNA and related information from ancestry websites to establish the nationality of residents and in some cases deport them. The article follows a few people such as a man who the government is trying to prove is not a resident of Canada and is actually Nigerian. Arguments are made by a lawyer named Subodh Bharati who believes that this is a matter of public interest. The CBSA states that this is not the sole factor in these deportation cases it is merely a tool used to help secure Canadian borders.

Thoughts:

1. I feel like in this day and age there should be a more rigid set of guidelines on the use of customer data seeing that data is one of the most valuable entities in today's economy.
2. Pertaining to the article "Hernandez. S. (2019). One of the Biggest At-Home DNA Testing Companies is Working with the FBI. BuzzFeed News." I feel there are certain

things that people can and should be upset about regarding their privacy. However, shouldn't solving violent crimes be slightly more important than the FBI having access to DNA? Yes, you should be forewarned, but if you use one of these services you should know that your genetic data is now not only in your hands.