

# Applying 'Big Data' Privacy Concepts to Predictive Phenotyping

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Big Data approaches have been applied extensively in business, but the technology is advancing in medical science and genetics.<sup>i</sup> Big Data concepts are already applied to clinical data and translational research.<sup>ii</sup> These approaches can also apply to forensic use of predictive phenotyping, and this use can also inform Big Data.

Big Data, genetic or otherwise, often lacks meaning without context and can also include extraneous data. The potential for data to be contextualized challenges conventional approaches to de-identifying personal information.<sup>iii</sup>

Technology often drives how privacy is defined.<sup>iv</sup> Phenotyping, by its nature, seeks to add identifying context to genetic data. Successful use of forensic phenotyping is therefore undertaking the very re-identification that is challenging to Big Data privacy more generally. Examining phenotyping through a Big Data privacy and governance lens can provide useful insights to forensics and overarching Big Data.

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<sup>i</sup> Moses, Lyla Bennett and Janet Chan, 'Using big data for legal and law enforcement decisions: Testing the new tools' (2014) 37 UNSWLJ 643 [http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/t1\\_bennett\\_moses\\_and\\_chan.pdf](http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/t1_bennett_moses_and_chan.pdf), 650; Chute, Christopher G et al., 'Some experiences and opportunities for big data in translational research' (2013) 15(10) *Genetics in Medicine* 802 <http://www.nature.com/gm/journal/v15/n10/full/gm2013121a.htm>.

<sup>ii</sup> Chute, above n .

<sup>iii</sup> Mayer-Schönberger, Viktor and Yann Padova, 'Regime Change? Enabling Big Data through Europe's new Data Protection Regulation' (2016) 17 *Comput. Sc. & Tech. L. Rev.* 315 <http://stir.org/download/voices/voice17/SchonbergerPadova.pdf>, 328; Anderson, Nate, "'Anonymized" data really isn't - and here's why not (Big Data)' (2009) <http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2009/09/your-secrets-ve-on-ne-n-databases-of-ru-n/>; Kempe, Shannon, 'Best Practices for Big Data Governance' (2013) <http://www.dataversity.net/best-practices-for-big-data-governance/>.

<sup>iv</sup> White House, 'Big Data and Privacy: a technological perspective' (2014) *Washington DC: Executive Office of the President President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology* [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/PCAST/pcast\\_big\\_data\\_and\\_privacy\\_-\\_may\\_2014.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/PCAST/pcast_big_data_and_privacy_-_may_2014.pdf), 3-4; Pike, Elizabeth R., 'Securing Sequences: Ensuring Adequate Protections for Genetic Samples in the Age of Big Data' (2015) 37 *Cardozo Law Review* [http://papers.ssrn.com/so3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2658306](http://papers.ssrn.com/so3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2658306), 33.