



Conference Abstract

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Title: **Health, risk and responsibility**

Abstract text: In recent years, the development of genetics and genomics has become a subject of interest to sociologists and anthropologists studying changes in the world of medicine and pharmaceutical industry. Researchers have been examining how the development of personalized medicine and consumer genomics might change our way of understanding health and the common practice of healthy lifestyle. The aim of this presentation is to pick from the sociological and anthropological debates the topics that seem relevant to bioethics.

One of these issues is the problem of risk and responsibility in the contemporary and future medicine. Some researchers (Rose 2006; Rajan 2005) draw attention to the biopolitical nature of modern medicine, the main strategy of which is risk management. Ability to determine the probability of occurrence of certain diseases and possible choice of preventive treatments might cause a shrinkage of social acceptance for voluntary exposure to risk - and this in turn can affect our understanding of the concept of responsibility for person's own health. As a result of these changes, will health soon be seen as a moral obligation? And will the development of personalized medicine and direct-to-consumer genomics contribute to the dangerous link between the concepts of illness and guilt? Will it contribute to the further medicalization of life and commercialization of medicine? Or perhaps all those concerns are exaggerated and irrelevant in the face of potential benefits? During the presentation, possible answers to these questions will be proposed.

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