

Deborah Lynn Steinberg **Science Spectacle and the Gene**

This research will be of interest to:

Scholars, practitioners and activists in the fields of:

- **Critical debates on science and/as culture**
- **Feminist perspectives on science and technology**

Researcher info/contact:
Academic.
Department of Sociology.
D.L.Steinberg@warwick

Science, Spectacle and the Gene is a monograph focused on the emergent cultures of the gene. The book considers the gene as, at one and the same time, a 'materialised' artifact, a discursive construct and 'phantasmatic projection'. Themes include: the sexual-racial imaginaries attached to the search for genetic markers of identity (the 'Jew's gene', the 'gay gene') as well as health and illness; the science of genetics as well as its science fictions; the links between genes, justice and neo-liberal values; and the gene as a locus of fantasy and affective investment as well as a site for embodied performance and the reproduction of existing inequalities.

Research Methods

The project involves a range of discursive/textual research methods, derived from feminist media and cultural theoretical frameworks and strategies, including:

- semiotic
- linguistic
- psychoanalytic
- narrative

Key Findings/Ideas

- **Genes are a locus of affective as well as epistemic investments**
- **Genes are both material(ised) artefacts and sites of phantasmatic projection**
- **Genes are points of rupture and convergence for wider cultural themes and anxieties accruing to: body politics, definitions of kinship, ideas and policies in health and medicine, political economies and epistemologies of science, popular vernaculars of identity, community and conflict**