

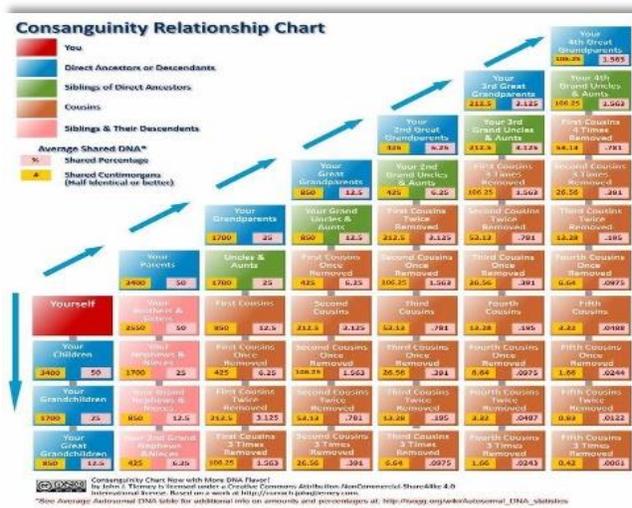
Ethnicity testing

- new angle to DNA testing
- marketing 'hook'
- support paper trail/ prove a point
- what is it testing?
- results - fascinating



I discovered previously unknown Irish ethnicity - 'gold dust' for an adopted person.

Consanguinity



If you do a DNA test, you will biologically match with other people, and can then interpret the information as relationship predictors. (See Tierney's Consanguinity Chart). It can be useful to enter the shared cM you have with a match into the 'Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4,' which will reveal a variety of proposed relationships. Ethnicity estimates can be 'gold dust', providing huge clues about ancestry. You can also utilise GEDmatch, which allows DNA uploads from various sites: Ancestry, 23AndMe, FTDNA, with more companies potentially being added. This increases the chance for collaboration with matches.

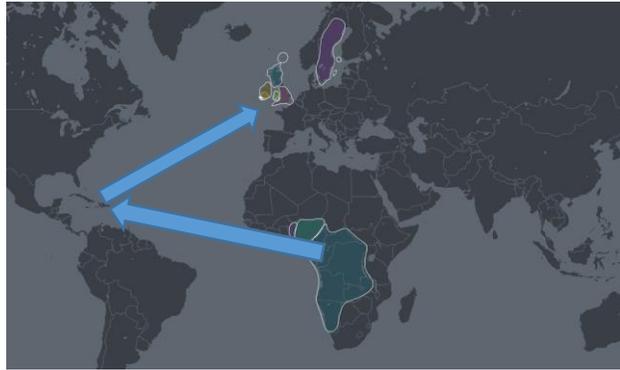
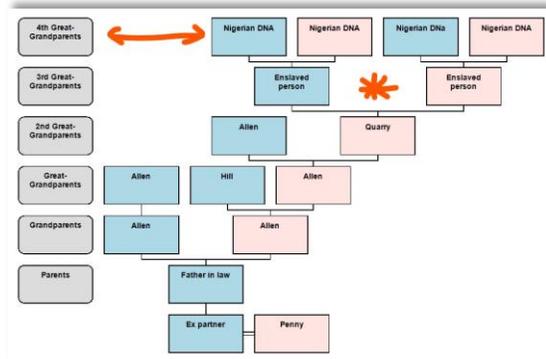
<https://currach.johnitierney.com/2013/12/consanguinity-chart-now-with-more-dna-flavor/>

Ethnicity estimates of my first 3 children

	Penny	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3
Ireland	58	45	34	35
Wales	42	20	32	32
Scotland	-	14	10	9
Nigeria	-	14	11	11
Benin & Togo	-	4	4	4
Cameroon, Congo & Western Bantu	-	2	4	4
Senegal	-	1	-	-
Sweden	-	-	3	4
England	-	-	2	1

- some estimates are the same/ somewhat different/ hugely different
- grandfather came from Jamaica to the UK
- **Jamaica doesn't feature**

Implications of African DNA from a Jamaican grandfather



Ethnicity estimates of my 4th and 5th children

	Penny	Child 4	Child 5	Father	Mother in law	Father in law
Ireland	58	18	24	-	-	
Wales	42	32	27	-	-	
Nigeria	-	-	5	16	6	
Benin & Togo	-	39	23	42	62	
Cameroon, Congo & Western Bantu	-	9	10	25	-	?
Ivory Coast & Ghana	-	2	10	17	32	
Mali	-	-	1	-	-	

Where are you from?

DNA ethnicity results can affect identity, notions of heritage & notions of homelands

When asked 'what is your ethnicity?' my children answered:

- English
- Mixed race
- Black British
- Jamaican heritage
- African
- I don't like labels

None said Irish or Welsh

Ethical dilemmas

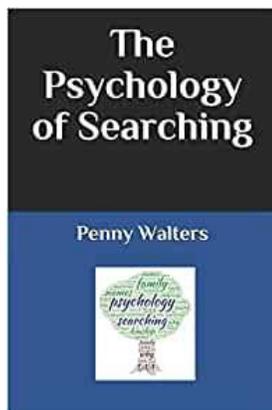
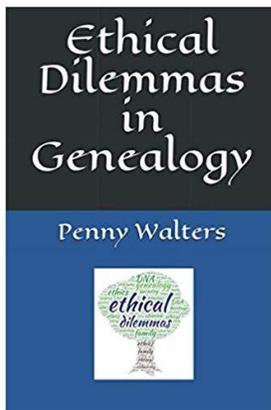
- 'DNA doesn't lie' - statistics - relationship predictors
- results can be exciting/ shocking/ upsetting
- unexpected ethnicities
- ethnicity results alter (get refined)
- what % ethnicity feels like a connection - 25%, 12%, 1%?
- can create doubt about long held stories
- where are homelands
- variations in matching relatives
- doubts about paternity

- can create doubt about long held stories
- ethnicity labels could be seen as divisive

Conclusion & takeaways

- DNA - useful tool
- ethnicity ESTIMATES
- can hold vital clues
- our DNA is compared with test populations living today, not with our ancestors' DNA
- huge variations in available test populations
- geographical & political boundaries changed over time
- ancestors travelled, crossed borders & had relationships
- testing companies use different algorithms for comparison
- a developing science
- results - not cast in stone
- what is DNA measuring: ethnicity or where people lived?
- critics - DNA testing is still in its infancy, can reinforce stereotypes & can be wrong
- merge DNA results with paper trail
- a developing science
- think about ethical dilemmas that can arise
- need to work through any ethical dilemmas

Author of:



'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy' 2019

ISBN: 9781724038241

'The Psychology of Searching' 2020

ISBN: 9781687167262

Both available on Amazon in paperback or kindle

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