

NON-INVASIVE PRENATAL TESTING THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE?

Public lecture in Uppsala, April 12, 2018
3 pm–4 pm, The Humanities Theatre (Humanistiska teatern), Engelska parken

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) also known as cell-free fetal DNA (cffDNA) testing, has been regarded as the perfect prenatal test: highly accurate, easily performed, and with no risk of miscarriage. At present, it is increasingly afforded for detection of trisomy (the chromosomal condition associated with Down syndrome). But does the removal of the risk of miscarriage also promote the

routinisation of screening and undermine informed consent? Will NIPT stop at trisomy, or will it be increasingly accompanied by whole genome sequencing (WGS) so that all genetic anomalies, in principle, are revealed?

This talk will explore the clinical, ethical and social dimensions of NIPT, and offer a middle way on prenatal diagnosis, informed by disability studies.



TOM SHAKESPEARE is professor of disability research at the University of East Anglia and one of the world's most eminent scholars in the field of disability studies. His books include *Disability: the basics* (2017) *Disability Rights and Wrongs* (2006), *Genetic Politics: from eugenics to genome* (with Ann Kerr, 2002), and *The Sexual Politics of Disability: untold desires* (with Kath Gillespie-Sells & Dominic Davies, 1996).

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