# NGS DNA AFF

## Possible Plans

### Plan

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### Advantage 1: Justice

#### Current lack of compliance to proper crime lab methods causes massive false convictions and injustices

Tibbets 2020

John H. Tibbetts is a freelance writer in Charleston, South Carolina. His work has appeared in BioScience, The Scientist, The Washington Post, Yale Environment 360, Environmental Health Perspectives, and others. For 25 years, he was editor of Coastal Heritage magazine, which focuses on the South Carolina lowcountry. “Is Forensic Science Scientific? Crime lab errors and privacy issues raise concerns” published on April 17th, 2020. Find the article here: https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/70/5/377/5821419

But impressive new technologies can also mislead the public about how forensic science is actually practiced. Most forensic technicians work in local government crime labs that lack certification requirements, accreditation programs, or effective education opportunities for technicians. Major studies of forensic science have shown that many crime lab methods are unscientific and too often involve guesswork, contributing to false convictions. Meanwhile, privacy experts worry that genomic crime-fighting tools could be misused to surveil Americans who have never committed a crime or even taken a DNA test.

The Innocence Project, launched in 1992 at Cardozo School of Law in New York, has been the most powerful force in revealing systemic weaknesses in crime labs. The Innocence Project has introduced DNA-matching evidence in court resulting in exonerations of 367 people previously convicted of murder and other crimes. The exonerated had served an average of 14 years. False or misleading forensic evidence was a major factor in false convictions in 45% of these cases.

#### This injustice disproportionality harms minority and black communities

Chokshi 2017

Niraj Chokshi is a business reporter at The New York Times. He writes about transportation, with a focus on autonomous vehicles, airlines and logistics. He was previously a general assignment reporter at The Times and The Washington Post, where he also reported on trends in state politics. “Black People More Likely to Be Wrongfully Convicted of Murder, Study Shows” published on March 7th 2017. Find the article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/07/us/wrongful-convictions-race-exoneration.html> -tz

Black people convicted of murder or sexual assault are significantly more likely than their white counterparts to be later found innocent of the crimes, according to a review of nearly 2,000 exonerations nationwide over almost three decades.

Innocent blacks also had to wait disproportionately longer for their names to be cleared than innocent whites, the review, released on Tuesday by the National Registry of Exonerations, found. Blacks wrongfully convicted of murder, for example, spent an average of three more years in prison before being released than whites who were cleared.

“It’s no surprise that in this area, as in almost any other that has to do with criminal justice in the United States, race is the big factor,” said Samuel R. Gross, a University of Michigan law professor and a senior editor of the registry, a project of the law school that aims to provide data on false convictions to prevent them in the future.

The analysis focuses on the three types of crimes for which exonerations are most common: murders, sexual assaults and drug-related offenses. It is based on 1,900 wrongful convictions from 1989 to mid-October of last year, about 47 percent of which involved exonerated black defendants. Because of limited data for other groups, the authors compared only black and white populations in detail.

While the Tuesday report confirms what previous studies have found — that blacks make up a disproportionate share of the wrongfully convicted — it also uses the registry’s ever-growing collection of data to explore potential factors driving that disparity.

“The causes we have identified run from inevitable consequences of patterns in crime and punishment to deliberate acts of racism,” write Mr. Gross and his fellow authors, Maurice Possley, a senior researcher, and Klara Stephens, a research fellow.

#### This contributes to racist forms of recidivism despite lower risk factors – studies prove

CJRA 2018

The CJRA is a partnership between the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and the American Society of Criminology (ASC) with the ultimate aim of disseminating evidence-based research to policy-makers and concerned citizens. “Black men have higher rates of recidivism despite lower risk factors: study” published on October 23rd 2018. Find the article here: <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-black-men-higher-recidivism-factors.html> -tz

People of color are incarcerated at disproportionately higher rates than White people, and men of all races have higher rates of recidivism. A new study that estimated the effects of risk factors for Black and White men and women found that Black men were reincarcerated more often and more quickly than all others, despite having lower risk scores on nearly all of the variables on a standardized tool that assesses risk.

The study, by researchers at Florida State University, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Iowa, appears in Justice Quarterly, a publication of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

"By looking solely at recidivism rates, we don't consider the heterogeneity of the people released from jails or prisons," explains Stephanie C. Kennedy, assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Connecticut, who coauthored the study. "This view obscures the influence of race and gender on recidivism."

"In our study, the most potent predictor of recidivism was being a Black male, even though Black men had less contact with the criminal justice system and few of the risk factors traditionally associated with recidivism," Kennedy adds. "This suggests that beyond individual risk, other factors, including racism and implicit bias, as well as poverty and employment opportunities in the local community, are driving recidivism."

#### Specifically, NGS DNA sequestration in forensics science solves and creates more accurate post-racial rulings – but the technology still has room to grow

May 2018

Mary May is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Chemical Biology program at Harvard University. “Next Generation Forensics: Changing the role DNA plays in the justice system” published on November 9th, 2018. Find the article here: <http://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2018/next-generation-forensics-changing-role-dna-plays-justice-system/> -tz

Our DNA is a genetic code made up of 4 letters (A, T, G, C), called DNA bases, that are interpreted by our cells to make the molecules and structures that allow our bodies to function. Regions of DNA that encode molecules known as “proteins” are called genes. The unique code in every person results in physical differences—such as brown or blonde hair and blue or brown eyes—between individuals. It can also be used for identification purposes. Although the vast majority of DNA (99.9% on average) between two individual humans is the same, scientists have characterized regions of DNA that are different between people who are not closely related.

The most commonly used method of genetic testing in forensics looks at these variable sections of DNA. Forensic labs look at 20 DNA regions that vary between individuals, called short tandem repeats (STRs), to create a DNA “fingerprint” (Figure 1). These STRs are located in stretches of DNA between gene-coding regions and consist of short DNA sequences (e.g. “TATT”) that are repeated different numbers of times in different people. For example, in person A, the stretch of DNA may be “TATTTATTTATT” (three repeats), but in person B, the same region of DNA may be “TATTTATTTATTTATTTATT” (five repeats). Labs can then compare the number of repeats at each of these STRs to a sample taken from a crime scene and calculate the probability that the DNA from a suspect matches that sample. The chance that two people who aren’t closely related have the same DNA profile is 1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000.

Progress in DNA sequencing technology

As technology has progressed, scientists have been able to create these DNA fingerprints with much smaller DNA samples, meaning that a suspect can be identified from a drop of blood instead of a pint. One new technological development, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), sequences, or reads through, many small fragments of DNA at the same time, giving results much more quickly and at a lower cost than older methods. Accordingly, the number of regions used in STR analysis was increased from 13 to 20 in 2017, increasing the accuracy of DNA testing.

Scientists have also developed methods to analyze mixtures of DNA samples, as might occur when DNA is collected from a rape victim. For example, sophisticated software uses probabilistic genotype matching to determine the chances that two samples come from the same person. Analysts use this software to calculate the likelihood ratio, which measures how much more a suspect matches the data than a random person would.

Scientists have developed models that can predict either blue or brown eyes over 90% of the time and brown, red, or black hair 80% of the time by looking at the variation in different genes between individuals. Scientists are now working on models that can predict complicated facial features which may be affected by hundreds of genes (Figure 2).

In the future, we may go much further than just comparing evidence from a crime scene to a known suspect. Instead, we may use DNA from crime scenes to create descriptions of potential suspects or unidentified victims from scratch via a method called DNA phenotyping. In a racially biased criminal justice system, this technique has the potential to help reduce discrimination by preventing police from targeting the wrong people due to racial bias. Police have already used the technique to help identify victims from cold cases.

#### We must take every step we can to move away from racist forms of state-based racism

Stevenson 2019

Bryan Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and the author of “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption. “lavery gave merica a fear of black people and a taste for violent punishment. oth still define our criminal-justice system.” Published on August 14th, 2019. Find the article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/prison-industrial-complex-slavery-racism.html> -tz

Hundreds of years after the arrival of enslaved Africans, a presumption of danger and criminality still follows black people everywhere. New language has emerged for the noncrimes that have replaced the Black Codes: driving while black, sleeping while black, sitting in a coffee shop while black. All reflect incidents in which African-Americans were mistreated, assaulted or arrested for conduct that would be ignored if they were white. In schools, black kids are suspended and expelled at rates that vastly exceed the punishment of white children for the same behavior.

Inside courtrooms, the problem gets worse. Racial disparities in sentencing are found in almost every crime category. Children as young as 13, almost all black, are sentenced to life imprisonment for nonhomicide offenses. Black defendants are 22 times more likely to receive the death penalty for crimes whose victims are white, rather than black — a type of bias the Supreme Court has declared “inevitable.”

The smog created by our history of racial injustice is suffocating and toxic. We are too practiced in ignoring the victimization of any black people tagged as criminal; like Woods Eastland’s crowd, too many Americans are willing spectators to horrifying acts, as long as we’re assured they’re in the interest of maintaining order.

This cannot be the end of the story. In 2018, the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit I direct, opened a museum in Montgomery, Ala., dedicated to the legacy of slavery and a memorial honoring thousands of black lynching victims. We must acknowledge the 400 years of injustice that haunt us. I’m encouraged: Half a million people have visited. But I’m also worried, because we are at one of those critical moments in American history when we will either double down on romanticizing our past or accept that there is something better waiting for us.

I recently went to New Orleans to celebrate the release of several of our Angola clients, including Matthew — men who survived the fields and the hole. I realized how important it is to stay hopeful: Hopelessness is the enemy of justice. There were moments of joy that night. But there was also heaviness; we all seemed keenly aware that we were not truly free from the burden of living in a nation that continues to deny and doubt this legacy, and how much work remains to be done.

#### And while one reform might not solve all instances of racism – using the law to engage in movements away from racism and engage in new laws – the result from inaction is genocide – voting aff is able to move us in the correct direction and create better modes of engaging with the world.

Crump 2019

Ben Crump is a civil rights attorney, and founder of the law firm Ben Crump Law, based in Tallahassee, Florida. He received his JD from Florida State University. “I believe black Americans face a genocide. Here's why I choose that word” published on November 15th 2020. Find the article here: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/15/black-americans-genocide-open-season> -tz

Surely, genocide is too strong a word for the maltreatment of black people in America, some interviewers have suggested. True genocide is something that happened in Nazi Germany, Armenia and Rwanda, not the United States of America.

Yet we don’t need to look any further than the definition contained in article 2 of the United Nations’ 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: “Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.” It then goes on to describe the acts as “killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births, or forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”.

The first case for charging the American government with the genocide of black Americans was brought in 1951 by a group called the Civil Rights Congress (CRC) in We Charge Genocide: The Historic Petition to the United Nations for Relief from a Crime of The United States against the Negro People.

The CRC was attacked, accused of exaggerating racial inequality, and disbanded in 1956. In hindsight, the paper – and its charge of genocide – was prescient and has stood the test of time.

Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has documented 4,400 racial terror lynchings so far. He has brought the historical evidence of genocide to life in an exhibit at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice; there, visitors walk under 800 steel columns representing black Americans who were lynched – some bearing names, some printed with “unknown” and the location of the lynching.

Rather than fading into a shadowy past, the case for charging genocide has – if anything - only grown stronger and clearer since the CRC first brought its petition.

Trayvon Martin, Philando Castile, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Stephon Clark - daily, the news is filled with documentation of black people wrongfully killed by police, of black lives treated as though they had no value, of lives extinguished without accountability and without justice.

But the evidence of genocide doesn’t stop with outright murder. The mass incarceration of black people testifies to a prison industrial complex that uses black lives as fuel to feed its profits. Consider the generational harm of incarcerating black people, who make up only 13% of the population but 27% of all arrests, 33% of those in jail or prison and 42% of those on death row. We see genocide in the generations of black families who have been economically and psychologically destroyed by a justice system that incarcerated poor blacks for using crack cocaine, while slapping the wrists of white professionals who used cocaine in its white powder form. We see that hypocrisy continue today as opioid use is deemed an “epidemic” and disproportionately white users are treated as addicts in need of treatment. We see it as the government devises ways to profit from the legal marijuana industry while thousands of black Americans rot in prison for possessing or selling weed to support their families.

We see it in the masses of black Americans who have been forced or coerced into felony convictions or plea deals, costing them the basic essentials of a successful life – an act I call in my book “killing us softly”. Consider the cascade of consequences that follows a felony label, which disproportionately affects black Americans. Trumped-up felony convictions and plea deals leave thousands of black Americans unable to vote; unable to access housing; unable to hold a wide range of jobs, from nail tech to childcare worker; unable even to purchase life insurance, rendering them the walking dead.

We see it in the rampant environmental racism that threatens the lives of black people in low-income neighborhoods across the country. Consider that the most polluted zip code in Michigan, 48217, is 84% black. Isn’t it ironic that hundreds of thousands of black Americans are in prison for selling small amounts of drugs because prosecutors and judges maintained they were poisoning the community – but when it came to Flint, where the whole community was literally poisoned, not one official was punished?

If that isn’t enough evidence of genocide, consider the last two acts contained in the UN’s definition – preventing births or forcibly transferring the children of one group to another. In my book, I document how black people have been sterilized without their knowledge or against their will for decades and are still coerced into sterilization to reduce a prison sentence. For much of the last century, a majority of states carried out eugenics laws, resulting in the sterilization of nearly 65,000 Americans, most often women of color. In California, nearly 150 incarcerated women were sterilized between 2004 and 2013, according to the Center for Investigative Reporting. And as recently as 2017, a Tennessee judge offered to reduce criminal sentences by 30 days for individuals who agree to sterilization or long-form birth control implants.

### Advantage 2: IHRL

#### Status quo policies under Trump wreck international law - the U.S. is no longer seen as an actor of human rights, leadership, the rule of law, and multilateralism

Wright 2018

Thomas Wright is the director of the Center on the United States and Europe and a senior fellow in the Project on International Order and Strategy at the Brookings Institution. He is also a contributing writer for The Atlantic and a nonresident fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy. He is the author of “All Measures Short of War: The Contest For the 21st Century and the Future of American Power” which was published by Yale University Press in May 2017. Wright works on great power competition, Brexit and the future of the EU, economic interdependence, Donald Trump's worldview, and U.S. foreign policy. Wright has a doctorate from Georgetown University, a Master of Philosophy from Cambridge University, and a bachelor's and master's from University College Dublin. He has also held a pre-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and a post-doctoral fellowship at Princeton University. He was previously executive director of studies at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a lecturer at the University of Chicago's Harris School for Public Policy. “Trump’s Foreign Policy Is No Longer Unpredictable” published on January 18th 2019. Find the article here: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2019-01-18/trumps-foreign-policy-no-longer-unpredictable> -tz

It has become a commonplace to describe the foreign policy of U.S. President Donald Trump as unpredictable. But doing so mischaracterizes the man and the policy. In fact, although Trump’s actions may often be shocking, they are rarely surprising. His most controversial positions—questioning NATO, seeking to pull out of Syria, starting trade wars—are all consistent with the worldview he has publicly espoused since the 1980s.

The unpredictability of this administration originated not in Trump’s views but in the struggle between the president and his political advisers on the one hand and the national security establishment on the other. Until recently, these two camps vied for supremacy, and it was difficult to know which would win on any given issue.

At the two-year mark, it is now clear that the president is dominating this struggle, even if he has not yet won outright. For the first time, it is possible to identify a singular Trump administration foreign policy, as the president’s team coalesces around his ideas. This policy consists of a narrow, transactional relationship with other nations, a preference for authoritarian governments over other democracies, a mercantilist approach to international economic policy, a general disregard for human rights and the rule of law, and the promotion of nationalism and unilateralism at the expense of multilateralism.

#### Forensics genetics bridges the gap in IHRL and Human Rights investigations – taking the lead on the tech sends a signal broadly the U.S. is willing to adopt to IHRL and HR – the plan’s adoption of A/HRC RES10/26 and RES 5/15 specifically is key as per citation to i-law

Binz et. al 2013

Dr Morris Tidball-Binz is a forensic doctor who joined the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2004 and has since worked for the organization in numerous contexts, helping to develop its novel forensic capacity. Having begun his career with forensic and human rights organizations, he helped pioneer in his native South America the application of forensic science to human rights investigations, particularly the search for the disappeared. He helped create the ICRC’s Forensic Unit, of which he was the first Director until early 2017; he then headed the forensic operation for the Humanitarian Project Plan. He is currently the Forensic Manager for the ICRC’s new Missing Persons Project. “A good practice guide for the use of forensic genetics applied to human rights and international humanitarian law investigations” published on October 2nd, 2013. Find the article here: <https://www.fsigeneticssup.com/article/S1875-1768(13)00110-8/pdf> -tz

A consequence of armed conflict and other situations of violence is that individuals go missing; these individuals have often been killed and their remains have not been identified or in some cases may be alive but have been separated from their families and are unable to re-establish family links. Forensic genetics provides a powerful tool for the identification of both the dead and living and can be used to assist in identifying missing persons. Guidelines exist that detail technical aspects of human identification using forensic genetics, particularly when identifying victims of disasters such as plane crashes; however, limited emphasis is given to circumstances often faced by investigations of abuses and violations of international humanitarian and human rights’ law. The Argentine government’s Human Rights Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREC) proposed that the United Nations (UN) should promote best practices in the use of forensic genetics for this type of investigation; this was adopted in Resolutions A/HRC/RES/10/ 26 and A/HRC/RES/15/5. Following these resolutions MREC has coordinated, with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the drafting of a set of guidelines, with input from several national and international organisations, which it plans to promote through national agencies, international organisations such as South America’s MERCOSUR and the UN.

1. Introduction

The tragedy of the missing (the term ‘missing’ is use to represent individuals, both dead and alive, whose fate/where- abouts is unknown to their families/communities, as a result of armed conflict, other situations of violence and catastrophes) can also have a severe psycho-social impact on the families of the missing and their communities and may constitute a barrier to the peace-building efforts following on from conflict. In many cases the circumstances around the missing persons may amount to serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights’ law.

The reality is that in many cases the individuals have been killed, and only through identification of the remains can closure be made possible for the families/communities. However, in some situations the missing person(s) may be alive and their identifica- tion is required for restoring family links. This situation most commonly impacts on young children separated from their parents; examples of this are well documented in Argentina where several children of individuals that had been killed and disappeared were illegally adopted, and only through forensic investigations, including genetic testing, could their identities and family links be re-established.

Forensic genetics is playing an increasingly important role in identification of missing persons. However, in many scenarios problems can be faced when attempting to implement identifica- tion programs. These problems can be legal, including issues around data protection and consent; and technical, including, the recovery of remains, extraction of DNA, collection of reference samples, the matching of the DNA profiles and quality control and assurance. The challenges faced in the search for the missing, alive or dead, are commonly exacerbated by the scale of the identifica- tion programs and often the multiplicity of participating agencies and countries.

2. Process

Since the early 1980s Argentina has pioneered the use of forensic sciences, including forensic genetics, for the search of the missing. In response to problems repeatedly faced by countries and agencies involved in the identification of the missing, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREC) of Argentina, proposed that the UN support general recommendations on best practices in the use of forensic genetics to establish the identity of the missing, dead or alive: this initiative was adopted in Resolutions A/HRC/ RES/10/26 and A/HRC/RES/15/5 of the UN Human Rights Council (2009 and 2010 respectively).

The Resolutions welcomed the use of forensic genetics and encouraged states to consider using forensic genetics to contribute to the identification of remains and identify persons separated from their families. One aspect of the Resolutions was a request to the UN Office of the High Commission of Human Rights to consider drafting a manual on best practices for the use of forensic genetics for human rights and humanitarian investigations (Fig. 1).

With support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the MREC has coordinated experts, both legal and forensic, within Argentina (including the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) and the Grandmothers of Plaza Mayo), Latin America, in Spain and Portugal; and then worldwide, to draft a set of guidelines which aim at helping fill a gap in international best practices to guide the use of forensic genetics in such sensitive investigations.

#### International human rights law implementation failures undermine international multilateralism

Melish 2009

Tara J. Melish is an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. Professor Melish's research interests include comparative approaches to the protection of economic, social, and cultural rights. “From Paradox to Subsidiarity: The United States and Human Rights Treaty Bodies” published on 2009. Find the article here: <https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1361&context=yjil> -tz

While realists dominated U.S. human rights policy during the Cold War, 149 and remain highly influential in the foreign policy establishment today, institutionalists have gained increasing prominence over the last two decades with the dramatic proliferation of international institutions and rapid expansion of the international human rights architecture. Within this context, the push-pull dynamic over U.S. human rights policy as a foreign policy objective has shifted determinatively toward institutionalists. For this group, human rights treaty body engagement serves two primary strategic foreign policy goals today: first, renewal of U.S. moral leadership in multilateral settings and, second, promotion of human rights and democratic reforms in other countries. Both are directed to furthering national security and global public order objectives, independent of any domestic policy implication.

First, institutionalists appreciate that the international standing of U.S. diplomats and their ability to lead in international processes of global dispute resolution are compromised by the nation's failure to ratify core human rights treaties and engage in their supervisory procedures. This failure, which has left the nation increasingly in the company of rogue or failed states, 50 renders it out of step with its democratic partners and subjects it to charges of hypocrisy by less democratic nations where the United States seeks human rights improvements or security safeguards. 51 On a practical level, this impairs the United States's ability to accomplish its national security and other global security priorities within multilateral settings, at times making disagreement with the United States a "principled" human rights stand in itself for nations. 52 In this sense, ratification and engagement serve as tools through which the United States can reseat itself within the "international community," reassert its moral leadership role, and hence better promote its national security agenda in multilateral settings, where most international work gets done. For institutionalists, this has been a particular priority following the widely internationally condemned unilateral actions taken by the United States following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The second factor, most commonly articulated by the U.S. State Department, involves recognition that full compliance by the United States with international human rights treaty body procedures increases the visibility and legitimacy of the procedures themselves, ratcheting up expectation levels for their regular and concerted use, and thereby prodding other states to take the procedures more seriously. Indeed, U.S. executive agencies recognize that human rights treaty bodies-by providing an international spotlight for gross abuses, giving voice to individuals and civil society groups seeking greater human rights protections and transparency at home, and providing legitimacy to domestic human rights and democracy movements-have initiated important conversations and processes in countries around the world, particularly in transitional states.' 53 They also recognize that while the United States's failure to ratify specific treaties has not likely caused other states to forego ratification, it may embolden some to turn ratification into an empty political act used as a rhetorical device to claim greater commitment to human rights than the United States without making corresponding changes in their 154 policies and practices at home.

#### Multilateralism solves existential threats such as terrorism, climate change, cyber-crime, disaster, and black swan events

Brimmer 2014

Esther Diane Brimmer is an American foreign policy expert and former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. She received a B.A. in International Relations from Pomona College in Claremont, California, USA., and a M.A. and D.Phil. in International Relations from the New College, Oxford, UK. “Smarter Power The Key to a Strategic Transatlantic Partnership” published in 2014. Find the article here: <https://archive.transatlanticrelations.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/BOOK-smart_power_P1-1.pdf> -tz

Over the subsequent decade, the variable definitions of Smart Power have evolved to reflect a rapidly changing foreign affairs landscape—a landscape shaped increasingly by transnational issues and what can only be described as truly global challenges. Nations of the world must now calibrate their foreign policy investments to try to leverage new opportunities while protecting their interests from emerging vulnerabilities. Smart Power is no longer an alternative path; it is a four-lane imperative.

The world in 2014 is fundamentally different from previous periods, growing vastly more interconnected, interdependent, networked, and complex. National economies are in many cases inextricably inter- twined, with cross-border imports and exports increasing nearly ten- fold over the past forty years, and more than doubling over just the past decade. At the same time, we are all connected—and connected immediately—to news and events that in past generations would have been restricted to their local vicinities.

Consider, for example, the 2011 tsunami that devastated parts of Japan. Not only did we know in real time of the earthquake that triggered the tsunami, we had live coverage of some of the tsunami’s most devastating impacts and then round-the-clock coverage of the Fukushima nuclear power plant crisis. Communications technology brings such events to us without delay and in high definition. This communications revolution, headlined by the explosion of social media, carries with it the almost unlimited potential to inform and educate. It also provides people and communities with new ability to influence and advance their causes—both benevolent and otherwise, as the dramatic events of recent years in North Africa and the Middle East have made clear.

At the same time, global power is more diffuse today than in centuries. Although predictions of the nation-state’s demise have gone unrealized, non-state actors—including NGOs, corporations, and international organizations—are more influential today than perhaps at any point in human history. The same might be said for transnational criminal networks and other harmful actors. Concurrently, we are witnessing the rise of new centers of influence—the so-called “emerging” nations—that are seeking and gaining positions of global leadership. These emerging powers bring unique histories and new perspectives to the discussion of current challenges and the future of global governance. Several of these countries are democracies and share many of the core values of the United States; others have sharply different political systems and perspectives. All are gauging how to be more active in the global arena.

It is this new, more diffused global system that must now find means of addressing today’s pressing global challenges—challenges that in many cases demand Smart Power ingenuity.

From terrorism to nuclear proliferation, climate change to pandemic disease, transnational crime to cyber attacks, violations of fundamental human rights to natural disasters, today’s most urgent secu- rity challenges pay no heed to state borders.

So, just as global power is more diffuse, so too are the opposing threats and challenges, and it is in this new reality that the United States must define and employ its Smart Power resources. That reality demands a definition that must now far exceed the origin parameters of hard and soft. Many of these challenges would be unresponsive to traditional Hard tools (coercion, economic sanctions, military force), while the application of Soft tools (norm advancement, cultural influence, public diplomacy) in customary channels is likely to provide unsatisfactory impact.

Ultimately, the other component necessary in today’s Smart Power alchemy is robust, focused, and sustained international cooperation. In effect, in an increasing number of instances, Smart Power must now feature shared power, and in that context foreign policy choices must follow two related but distinct axes.

First, those policy choices must strengthen a state’s overall stature and influence (rather than diminish it), leaving the state undertaking the action in a position of equal or greater global standing. This is easier said than done. The proliferation in challenges facing all states has created a need for multiple, simultaneous diplomatic transactions among a broadening cast of actors. Given the nature of today’s threats facing states both large and small, those transactions have never been more frequent and at times overlapping—a reality that requires new agility and synchronization within foreign policy hierarchies. States that are less capable of responding to this new reality may experience diminished political capital and international standing by acting on contemporary threats in isolation or without a full appreciation of the reigning international sentiment. Many observers have highlighted U.S. decision-making in advance of the 2003 Iraq invasion as indicative of just this phenomenon.

Alternatively, states applying a new Smart Power approach to their foreign policy recognize the overlapping need to maintain global standing and stature while seeking resolution of individual policy challenges. We see considerable effort on the part of emerging powers to find just that balance, and I would argue that the United States has also made great strides in that regard since 2009.

Second, Smart Power policy choices must contribute to the strength and resilience of the international system. As noted above, the globalization of contemporary challenges and security threats has augmented the need for effective cooperation among states and other international actors, and placed even greater demands on the global network of international institutions, conferences, frameworks, and groupings in which these challenges are more and more frequently addressed. Given this heightened need for structures to facilitate international collaboration, states are more rarely undertaking foreign policy courses of action that entirely lack a multilateral component, or that feature no interaction with or demands upon the international architecture. As recent American history shows, even states with unilateral tendencies have found themselves returning to the multilateral fold to address aspects of a threat or challenge that simply cannot be addressed effectively alone.

### Advantage 3: Microbiomes

#### Preventing disease is key – Corona’s shown despite our best efforts we’ve been insufficient to address a disease outbreak – a lack of biosurveillance and databases are the key cause

Gerstein 2020

Daniel M. Gerstein formerly served as the acting undersecretary and deputy undersecretary in the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security from 2011-2014. Gerstein’s latest book is “The Story of Technology: How We Got Here and What the Future Holds”, published by Prometheus Books. “Epic fail: Why the US wasn’t prepared for the coronavirus pandemic” published on April 24th, 2020. Find the article here: <https://thebulletin.org/2020/04/epic-fail-why-the-us-wasnt-prepared-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> -tz

Inadequate biosurveillance. The roots of why the federal response has been so halting during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic can be traced back two decades, to a prior era when US officials were becoming acutely aware of the potential for a major biological incident.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks were the last events to expose a national vulnerability even remotely comparable to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after the attacks, a scientist working at an Army disease research lab added to the unease that had settled on the country by allegedly sending out letters filled with deadly anthrax spores to politicians and media figures. The so-called Amerithrax attacks sickened 17 and killed five, providing a case study for why officials needed to bolster national biodefense.

During the post-9/11 era, officials gave particular attention to improving the country’s capabilities in biosurveillance, defined by the White House as “active data-gathering with appropriate analysis and interpretation of biosphere data that might relate to disease activity and threats to human or animal health.” Government offices undertook myriad activities in the name of biosurveillance. Strategies were written. Training was conducted and exercises were held. Offices like the National Biosurveillance Integration Center were created to integrate “information from thousands of sources about biological threats” to improve “early warning and situational awareness.”

At the end of the day, biosurveillance comes down to having the capacity to sense that a disease is present, so actions can be taken to halt its spread. It comes down to using testing and diagnostics to determine who is and who has been infected, conducting contact tracing to identify who might have been exposed so they can take mitigation protocols, and sharing information, so public health officials can understand how the disease has or has not been controlled. Armed with this biosurveillance data, public health professionals can make data-informed recommendations, and leaders can take action.

In the years following 9/11, biosurveillance systems and plans were put in place to provide the government an opportunity to watch for and react to something like a pandemic virus. But despite strong pronouncements and good intentions, funding shortfalls, organizational disfunction, and problems with information sharing have long confounded federal efforts. By the time COVID-19 first appeared, three different presidential administrations had struggled to develop an effective national biosurveillance system.

#### Forensics innovation pushes microbiomes identification and science over-all

Pullman 2017

Gary Pullman is a active member of the Western Writers of America. “Top 10 Cutting-Edge Innovations In The Future Of Forensic Science” published on June 12th, 2017

Plenty of microscopic organisms live in and on our skin and hair. In the future, these communities of microorganisms, known as microbiomes, may help police catch criminals. Although microbiomes outnumber our own cells 20 to one, no two people’s microbiomes are identical, and the communities remain stable over time, except after sex.Although pubic hair recovered from sexual assault suspects may not contain the roots in which the suspect’s own DNA resides, the microbiomes in the hair may help to convict him. This microbial DNA differs in males and females, since different microbial communities live on and in the pubic hair of men and women. Since these communities are unique to each individual, they identify whether a particular suspect committed an assault. Following sex, the microbiomes in both the male and the female appear to transfer from one party to the other, making the normally stable communities of microorganisms more like one another, indicating that a sexual act occurred between a particular man and woman.Although this cutting-edge technology isn’t ready for use in the courtroom yet, because it must first be shown “to have low false positive and false negative rates,” scientists predict its use in convicting perpetrators of sexual assault will soon become routine, supplying investigators and prosecutors with an effective new tool against sexual assault.[4]

#### It will be applied to other uses aside from court-room litigation - Microbiological databases exist but the success of disease tracking comes from data-bases together – the plan solves by promoting this unique form of disease tracking-

Janssens 2018

Yorick Janssens is a PhD student at Ghent University and on the Drug Quality and Registration (DruQuaR) Group, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ghent University, Ottergemsesteenweg 460, B-9000, Ghent, Belgium. “Disbiome database: linking the microbiome to disease” published on June 4th, 2018. Find the article here: <https://bmcmicrobiol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12866-018-1197-5#auth-1> -tz

Different microbiology databases for research are available. There are databases covering different microbial subjects such as genomic resources (e.g. IMG) [26], protein families (e.g. Pfam) [27], diversity (e.g. SILVA) [28], model organisms (e.g. EcoCyc) [29], pathogenesis (e.g. EuPathDB) [30], transport and metabolism (e.g. TCDB) [31] and signal transduction and gene regulation (e.g. MiST) [32]. However, a database covering microbiome differences in different disease states is, to our knowledge, currently missing. Seen the exploding data of microbiome alterations in different disease states, we present the Disbiome database, collecting and organizing this information (https://disbiome.ugent.be). Disbiome encompasses microbiome differences between patients and controls together with the used detection method and sample type. This database differs from other comparative tools such as MG-RAST as it presents comparisons between patient and control data in a clear and concise manner to the broader audience in a programmatically accessible way using the JSON export format [33]. Disbiome can be valuable for every researcher in the field of microbiology to rapidly and easily find bacterial species possibly correlated to specific diseases to further explore its mode of actions and interaction mechanisms with the host. It can speed up translational research in microbiome modulations (by either probiotics, prebiotics and microbiota transplantation) for treating a variety of diseases. In addition, it can serve as a new disease classification system based on microbiome changes. Currently, the database includes over 190 different diseases and 800 different organisms. Changes in organisms are detected by over 25 different detection methods (e.g. qPCR, next-generation sequencing,…) in 50 different sample types (e.g. faeces, skin swabs, tissue biopsies,…).

#### Pandemics hit and are enabled by racist structural violence overall

Shea 2020

James Shea is from the Virginia Commonwealth University in Public Affairs. “'A pandemic within a pandemic': COVID-19, protests shine a spotlight on inequity” published on June 15th, 2020. Find the article here: <https://phys.org/news/2020-06-pandemic-covid-protests-spotlight-inequity.html> -tz

Underwood said the virus is affecting black communities from a morbidity standpoint but also Hispanic communities, as that group has the highest positive testing rate for the virus in Virginia. To address inequities in its COVID-19 response, the state created the Commonwealth of Virginia COVID-19 Equity Leadership Task Force. The task force is the first of its kind for Virginia and has been a model for similar groups across the country, Underwood said.

"We know that we are in a pandemic and some of us are in a pandemic within a pandemic," Underwood said. "And that has never been more clear to me and the administration and the governor in particular. We are certainly in this storm together, but we are not in the same boats."

The pandemic and the protests in the wake of George Floyd's death on May 25 are not entirely separate issues, Spanberger, Underwood and Winn said. The three penned a joint op-ed in Tuesday's Richmond Times-Dispatch titled "America tests positive for our collective disease," in which they argued that the country has been "in the grips of a disease that has plagued us for more than 400 years." This disease, they wrote, is structural racism. It is both "insidious and blatant" and can be identified "by inequities of housing, education and employment."

#### Although we might be able to reverse past pandemics - Vote aff to prevent future pandemics – humans have a bias to ignore issues averted which is what the aff would resolve-

Tyler and Gluckman 2020

Chris Tyler is a Associate Professor in Science Policy and Knowledge Infrastructure, UCL. Peter Gluckman is the Director of Koi Tū, the Centre for Informed Futures; former Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, University of Auckland. “Coronavirus: governments knew a pandemic was a threat – here’s why they weren’t better prepared”. Published April 27th, 2020. Find the article here: <https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-governments-knew-a-pandemic-was-a-threat-heres-why-they-werent-better-prepared-136857> -tz

Fourth, as a species we are good at rewarding people who fix problems, but terrible at acknowledging a problem averted. For example, former US Transport Secretary Norm Mineta received much praise for insisting that cockpit doors should be bulletproof after 9/11. How much praise would he have received if he had done it before 9/11? Consequently, government interest tends to focus on events that have already occurred such as floods or earthquakes.

## Addons

### Solvency

#### The infrastructure for growth is there – it’s just a question of investment as per the plan for innovation and tech – the squo doesn’t send a signal broadly either

Molteni 2018

Megan Molteni is a staff writer at WIRED, covering biotechnology, public health, and genetic privacy. Previously, she freelanced as a reporter, audio producer, and fact-checker. Her work has appeared in Popular Science, Discover, Undark, Nautilus, and Aeon. She studied biology and ultimate frisbee at Carleton College and has a graduate degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. “The Future of Crime-Fighting Is Family Tree Forensics Genealogy is about to send a lot more people to jail.” Published on

As long as genetic genealogy remains resource-intensive, it’s unlikely to be used to catch thieves or drug-dealers. But even that appears to be changing. As more people send in their spit to DNA testing companies and upload their results to GEDMatch, matches will become more frequent. Curtis Rogers, the website’s 80-year-old co-creator, says the site has grown by about 200,000 profiles since it changed its terms in May. And its search capabilities just got more powerful. Last week, Rogers’ team of retired computer engineers rolled out an update that will let people see more matches with even more distant relatives. They also added a tool he calls “revolutionary” that will help sleuths decide if a small piece of DNA is a real match or just noise. Since the website’s skeletal staff are mostly volunteers, the effort has taken about two years. But now that it’s done, Rogers says they can start thinking about how to transform their hobby site, which resembles a Web 1.0 Wiki, into something more professional—including adding backups and beefing up security. “We want to make sure it’s something that is around for the long term,” he says.

## Blocks

### AT: No Solvency

#### Broad oversight like the USFG is key – the plans holistic scenario planning is good

Morgan 2019

Ruth Morgan is a professor of crime and forensic sciences at UCL. “Why forensic science is in crisis and how we can fix it” published on September 12th, 2019. Find the article here: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/09/why-forensic-science-is-in-crisis-and-how-we-can-fix-it/> -tz

Looking forward, forensic science needs to establish a holistic vision that ensures meaningful connectivity between the investigation and the courts. There needs to be strategic oversight to set priorities for current operational approaches, to establish sustainable markets for the provision of forensic science services, and set the agenda for research to underpin each part of the forensic science process (crime scene to court). This will need to be a collective corporate strategy that provides a voice for all the key stakeholders.

### AT: Multilat Fails

#### Their impact d doesn’t meet – Brimmer cites smart power and hard power being two components of a larger system – multilateral institutions solve and their evidence doesn’t analyze the specific solutions to the issues we touch on

#### The UN specifically has recognized the importance of forensics genetics – plan is key

UNHR 10

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, commonly known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) or the UN Human Rights Office, is a department of the Secretariat of the United Nations that works to promote and protect the human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. The office was established by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1993[3] in the wake of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. “Forensic genetics and the search for the truth” published on October 29th, 2010. Find the article here: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Forensic.aspx> -tz

The disappearance of the five students is one of thousands globally where families and friends spend entire life-times searching for the truth and evidence which could offer some opportunity for justice and reparation, both central elements in transitional justice and accountability processes.

Critical to establishing the truth in situations of gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law is the use of forensic genetics.

The Human Rights Council has recognized the importance of forensic genetics and the role it can play in identifying victims of human rights violations, and has commissioned a report to identify future trends in the field. The Council also asked that consideration be given in the report to the development of an agreed manual for the application of forensic genetics and, where appropriate, the voluntary creation and operation of genetic banks with appropriate safeguards.

### AT: Tech not fast enough

#### The 1ac May 2018 evidence cites a more specific piece of NGS tech is key – their impact defense doesn’t cut it because it ignores the specific tech we cite

#### And standard setting itself is valuable – it’ll spur innovation writ-large- past innovation proves – the judiciary is uniquely key

Belle 2018

Suzanne Bell is a Professor of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, DePaul University. “A call for more science in forensic science” published on May 1st, 2018. Find the article here: <https://www.pnas.org/content/115/18/4541> -tz

The evolution of other forensic disciplines, particularly those related to pattern evidence, followed a different course, having been developed primarily within law enforcement environments or at the behest of law enforcement. Disciplines, such as fingerprints, firearms, and tool marks, blood-stain pattern analysis, tread-impression analysis, and bite mark analysis matured largely outside of the traditional scientific community during a time when admissibility standards for scientific evidence had yet to be formulated. Thus, admissibility of such evidence rightly or wrongly created judicial precedent in decisions that often did not—or could not—involve the level of research that would today be needed to establish scientific validity.

The adaptation of DNA typing methods to forensic casework, a pivotal event in forensic science, catalyzed a reassessment of the scientific validity of other methods used in forensics. In the 1980s, Alec Jeffreys of the University of Leicester discovered that segments of repetitive DNA were tremendously variable among individuals and coined the term “DNA fingerprinting” (15). The rapid embrace of DNA typing, beginning in the late 1980s and continuing through the turn of the century, had far-reaching implications in the judicial system. The probabilistic nature of DNA evidence and its acceptance by the courts also played a role in shaping modern views on scientific validity. Before DNA typing, analysis of blood evidence relied on ABO blood group and secretor status, which could afford population frequencies on the order of n-in-100. DNA typing allowed a person to be linked to a sample with frequencies of less than one across the population of the world (i.e., less than one in eight billion). The use of rigorously estimated probabilities as a tool to weigh the relative importance of the data marked a critical turning point in forensic science.

# NGS DNA NEG

## AT: Plan Top Level

### NGS fails – Sampling

#### NGS fails – sampling fails and the plan doesn’t do anything about this – saying the tech solves doesn’t meet this indict

Baker 2018

Dr. Shawn C. Baker is the Chief Science Officer and co-founder of AllSeq, Inc, the Sequencing Marketplace. Having received his Ph.D. at the University of California – Davis. “Next-Generation Sequencing Challenges” published on February 1st, 2017. Find the article here: <https://www.genengnews.com/magazine/286/next-generation-sequencing-challenges/> -tz

After hearing about sequencing’s many improvements—greater output, lower costs, and better ease of use—the casual observer may imagine that all of the hard work has been done and that all the barriers to progress have been removed. But the hard work has just started, and many challenges remain.

One of the first areas where problems can creep in is often the most overlooked—sample quality. Although platforms are often tested and compared using highly curated samples (such as the reference material from the Genome in a Bottle Consortium), real-world samples often present much more of a challenge.

For human sequencing, one of the most popular sample types is FFPE (formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded). FFPE is popular for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the sheer abundance of FFPE samples. According to some estimates, over a billion FFPE samples are archived around the world. This number will continue to grow now that the storage of clinical samples in FFPE blocks has become an industry-wide standard practice.

Besides being widely available, FFPE samples often contain incredibly useful phenotypic information. For example, FFPE samples are often associated with medical treatment and clinical outcome data.

The problem with FFPE samples is that both the process of fixation and the storage conditions can cause extensive DNA damage. “In evaluating over 1,000 samples on BioCule’s QC platform, we’ve seen tremendous variability in the amount and types of damage in sample DNA, such as inter- and intrastrand crosslinks, accumulation of single-stranded DNA, and single-strand DNA breaks,” says Hans G. Thormar, Ph.D., co-founder and CEO of BioCule.

The variable amounts and types of damage, if ignored, can negatively affect the final results. “The impact on downstream applications such as sequencing can be profound: from simple library failures to libraries that produce spurious data, leading to misinterpretation of the results,” continues Dr. Thormar. Therefore, it is critical to properly assess the quality of each sample at the beginning of the sequencing project.

### NGS fails – data no solvency

#### NGS fails – data infrastructure isn’t nearly sufficient

Baker 2018

Dr. Shawn C. Baker is the Chief Science Officer and co-founder of AllSeq, Inc, the Sequencing Marketplace. Having received his Ph.D. at the University of California – Davis. “Next-Generation Sequencing Challenges” published on February 1st, 2017. Find the article here: <https://www.genengnews.com/magazine/286/next-generation-sequencing-challenges/> -tz

Another challenge facing researchers is the sheer amount of data being generated. The BAM file (a semicompressed alignment file) for a single 30X human whole-genome sample is about 90 GB. A relatively modest project of 100 samples would generate 9 TB of BAM files.

With a single Illumina HiSeq X instrument capable of generating over 130 TB of data per year, storage can quickly become a concern. For example, the Broad Institute is generating sequencing data at the rate of one 30X genome every 12 minutes—nearly 4,000 TB worth of BAM files every year.

BAM files may be converted into VCF (variant call format) files, which contain information only on those bases that differ from the reference sequence. Although the VCF files are much smaller and easier to work with, it is still necessary to retain the the raw sequence files if the researcher is to reprocess the data in the future.

### NGS fails – Phasing T/

#### NGS fails – the more sequencing the plan causes the more it fails

Pfeiffer 2018

Franziska Pfeiffer holds a PhD from the University of Boon Germany. “Systematic Evaluation of Error Rates and Causes in Short Samples in Next-Generation Sequencing” published on July 19th, 2018. Find the article here: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30026539/> -tz

Phasing

Sequencing of single sequences led us to the conclusion that different outcomes we were seeing (increase in error rate over the length of the sequence, high mutation rates of nucleotides to the subsequent ones (Figs 2–4)) were based on pre-phasing effects. The increase in error rate over the length of the sequence was also reported in previous papers that used sequencing-by-synthesis sequencers, even though the extent of the phenomenon was not as pronounced as in our samples6,28,29,30. While optimisation of the washing cycles during sequencing might be able to reduce phasing, the relevant parameters can only be changed in the program’s code which goes along with warranty loss.

Omission of shortened sequences leads to a reduction in error rates of in average 79%, while the number of analysed sequences and the percentage of non-mutated sequences only changed by roughly 5% each (Table 6). This is a clear indication that the sequences we removed from the analysis were the major contributor to the error rate, as the remaining 95% of sequences only reflected 20% of the error rate. Since pre-phasing means that the insertion of one nucleotide is not visible, all subsequent nucleotides that differ from the previous will be analysed as mutated. Therefore, a low amount of sequences suffering from pre-phasing effects has a huge impact on the error rate. Only reduction or complete ablation of these sequences allows insights into the real mutation rates.

## AT: IHRL Advantage

### IHRL Fails – Top level

#### IHRL fails – the US has never cared the plan won’t change that

Sikkink 2018

Kathryn Sikkink is an author, human rights academic, and scholar of international relations working primarily through the theoretical strain of constructivism. She received her B.A. in international relations from the University of Minnesota and her M.A. and PhD in political science from Columbia University. “Have Human Rights Failed?” published April 18th, 2018. Find the article here: <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/ksikkink/files/have_human_rights_failed.pdf> -tz

Even before Trump took office, an increasing number of scholars had begun to question the efficacy of advocating for human rights. Eric Posner, a law professor at the University of Chicago, has argued that the ratification of human rights treaties has done little to reduce human rights violations worldwide.1 Samuel Moyn, a law professor at Yale, has argued that human rights are largely irrelevant because, he asserts, they do not address the expanding gap between the rich and the poor.2 Stephen Hopgood, a professor at the London-based School of Oriental and African Studies, has argued that we are facing the “endtimes of human rights,” in part because of the erosion of US and European influence and the rise of China and Russia.3 And Moyn and other critics have also questioned the legitimacy of human rights advocacy, portraying it as a handmaiden to neoliberal policies imposed by the West on the Global South.