

Forensic Science Journal Club

Introductions

Purpose

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- **Improve our ability to critically assess papers and identify positives**

Expectations

- Read the paper
- Criticize ideas, not people
- Be dumb, ask dumb questions
- Present at least once during the year
- If presenting the paper, prepare a small presentation (8-10 slides)
 - Highlight context (why did you want to read this paper? Why would this paper be of interest to forensic scientists/us?)
 - Identify the major question(s)
 - Review and describe methods and results (dedicate a few slides for main figures)
 - Present discussion and conclusions
 - Slide of questions you have to start discussion

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Organization

- How often do we want to do this?
 - Once a month? Twice a month?
- I will send out a poll and find a date and time that works for Fall, and then for Winter
- Do we want to do a regular literature survey?

Hiring qualified Forensic Investigative Genetic
Genealogy (FIGG) practitioners:
Recommendations for forensic science and law
enforcement agencies

Context

- Personal - interested in what skills practitioners are / should be looking for when hiring genetic genealogists
- Authors want to assist public sector in hiring internal forensic investigative genetic genealogists
 - Can be challenging because it is a unique combination of skills
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Question

What skills should we be looking for when hiring a forensic investigative genetic genealogist?

Methods

No formal methods or results in this paper. The authors used combined knowledge to outline the skills they felt were needed for these positions. Perspective is completely American.

Results

Generated job description responsibilities, qualifications, knowledge, and skills:

- Interdisciplinary expertise (genetics, forensic science, and investigations)
- Bachelor's degree and specialized genealogy/genetic genealogy training
- Core technical skills in DNA interpretation, family tree analysis, GEDmatch, Family Tree DNA, Open Source Intelligence Research
- Strong professionalism (communication, documentation, confidentiality, and collaboration)
- **Practical experience and credentialing are emphasized as being as important as formal education**

Discussion and Conclusions

Not really a formal discussion and conclusions section - maybe would have liked to see more.

- Author perspectives on the future
- Biases authors might have
- Challenges in hiring/contracting, case studies, etc...

Questions

- My sense is that we cover the professional and technical aspects of DNA well in the degree here, but we don't cover genealogy as well. Is this others' perspective?
- Parallels to other specializations here? Blood pattern analysis? Do students get everything they need here or do they need some extra credentials?
- Anything the authors missed?
- I think I see potential for AI here
 - Large language models to summarize records
 - Neural networks to identify relationships using sequence data
 - Machine learning clustering