Socio-economics of Personalized Medicine in Asia

Shirley Sun, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Series: Routledge Studies in the Sociology of Health and Illness

This book contributes to a growing body of literature on the molecularization of identities by tracing and analyzing "personalized medicine" as it unfolds in Asia. It shows that there are inextricable transnational linkages between developing and developed countries, and examines the various social forces shaping the "co-production" of genomic science, medicine and social order in transnational settings. Theoretically guided and empirically grounded, the book provides important insights into the formation and usage of racial and ethnic human taxonomies in population-based genomic science and medicine.

Reviews

"This is a major contribution to the ongoing debate about the relationship between "personalized medicine" and "racialized medicine". Dr. Sun documents how in practice, the two are far more integrated than previous analysts have recognized or acknowledged. Using an international platform, Sun demonstrates how Asian geneticists (Japanese, Chinese, Singaporean, Korean, et al), in a pushback against US-European domination of human molecular genetics, are often inadvertently re-inscribing ethnic and racial categories generated in the West."
— Troy Duster, author of Backdoor to Eugenics, Chancellor's Professor, University of California, Berkeley

"A highly timely counter-weight to the dominance of works on this topic from North America and Europe, Shirley Sun's brilliant and sobering analysis of 'probability medicine' in Singapore will make even the most reflective reader think about the global implications of genomic medicine differently."
— Barbara Prainsack, Professor at Social Science, Health and Medicine of King's College London, U.K.

"This book addresses a critical but understudied topic: personalized medicine within the context of Asia. Asian countries are key leaders in the move towards personalized medicine, but as the author points out, historically personalized medicine has been viewed through a Western centric focus. The findings also have implications for the large Asian population residing in the US and other countries. The book is engaging to read and insightful in its interpretations. I recommend it to anyone who wants to understand the global context of the emerging trend towards personalized, precision medicine and how it will change the future of health care."
— Kathryn Phillips, Professor of Health Economics and Health Services Research at the University of California, San Francisco, and Founder/Director of the UCSF Center for Translational and Policy Research on Personalized Medicine (TRANS Perez)
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