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Familial DNA searching in the US: Why aren't all states using it?

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Familial DNA searching continues to expand in the United States despite a lack of national support for expanding its use. Recently an NIJ funded webinar series was completed and the final report is now available. Some of the conclusions or observations should be of great interest to the leadership of the law enforcement and forensic community. For example, based on data collected by Denver and California DOJ, FS has demonstrated a greater success rate than that of the National DNA database (NDIS). In addition, it is notable that all 9 states currently utilizing FS recognized that their existing database laws already provided implicit legislative authorization for FS that there was no need to change their law. A handful of successes have already gone to trial and no legal challenge was lodged because none is available. The presentation will discuss these issues and others in an effort to further educate the forensic and legal community on the viability of familial DNA searching as a means to try to solve some of the 300,000 unsolved crimes with evidence profiles in the National database.

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Political and terror networks in Somalia: A forensic social network approach for explaining consistent unrest

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The political and social unrest in Somalia have been taking place for more than two decades. Now in this paper I analyze the political and social aspects of the consistent unrest and suggest an alternative social network approach. I argue that political and social networks overlap and have a common interest in maintaining the unrest for political as well as financial gains. Moreover the strong ties with terror networks, some of which are associated with other criminal activities explain the interest on continuation of the unrest and the challenges Western countries including the United States experience in their effort to restore calm in the country. The forensic analysis of Social tribal networks is another dimension of the explanation suggested in this paper.

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