

MA Defence

Spaces of convergence of genomics in a cancer clinical trial: A survey examining genomic literacy among medical oncologists in British Columbia by Dung Ha

This is a news update from School of Communication, Simon Fraser University
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Our dear colleague, Dung Ha, will defend her MA dissertation on Monday, April 10, 2017 at Harbor Center Room 1315 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm). Here is the abstract of her dissertation “Spaces of convergence of genomics in a cancer clinical trial: A survey examining genomic literacy among medical oncologists in British Columbia.”

Abstract

The emergent of big data in the network age has led to many innovative breakthroughs in all sectors of life, one of which is the prominent applications of clinical genomics in developing personalized medicine. In this thesis, I explore the technological diffusion of clinical genomics within the spaces of convergence of multidisciplinary medical stakeholders in a cancer clinical trial, entitled Personalized Onco-Genomics (POG). Drawing upon three areas of scholarship: health communication, information communication technologies (ICTs), and science and technology, I co-develop the concept of “genomic literacy”. Based on a survey and semi-structured interviews with medical oncologists and other scientists at POG, I examine how the genomic literacy, attitudes, and experiences of the domain experts working with clinical genomics can determine the adoption of genomic technologies into clinical care. These spaces of convergence of multidisciplinary medical stakeholders also create a pedagogical space where the stakeholders come together as a bioclinical collective to learn more about genomics through their communicative and discursive processes, as they co-construct the knowledge and meaning with genomic information.

Keywords: genomic literacy, spaces of convergence, social construction of technology, knowledge translation, diffusion of innovation, information communication technology, bioclinical collectives, biological citizens

