

# The Formulation & Non-Formulation of Security Concerns in the Life Sciences

## Information Sheet

Project funded by  
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)  
Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)  
and Defence Science Technology Laboratory (DSTL), UK

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This project seeks empirically and theoretically to assess what is *not* taking place in relation to the analysis of the implications of science for security. The researchers are studying what is not taking place in different case studies related to the potential for life science knowledge and techniques to serve destructive purposes. Through doing so, the project will consider how such cases can inform other studies of emerging areas of concern and how they can inform empirical social research in general. Other researchers on the project are studying issues of neuroscience, genetic engineering, and the South African biological and chemical weapons programme.

My portion of this project is to provide an analysis of how areas of synthetic biology are seen as being and not being matters of security concern. Guiding questions include: How are objects and processes within synthetic biology constructed as being of security concern, or not of security concern? Who has responsibility for identifying and governing security concerns in synthetic biology? What are the range of ways that the synthetic biology community turns objects of concern into objects of non-concern? The intention in asking these questions is not to argue that security concerns should or should not be more thoroughly addressed, but rather to better understand ways and reasons security concerns are framed, caught up in, and dissolved in the process of developing new biotechnology.

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Thank you for your collaboration