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## Abstract Template

**TITLE: Deterritorialising Big Data: The globalisation of biobanks and the glocalisation of their operations**

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Abstract:

Research biobanks house collections of biological samples from human populations. Originally established by single institutions within national borders, biobanks are increasingly “going global” to maximize their utility and sustainability and take advantage of scientific and political enthusiasm for “big data”. The globalisation of the scientific standards and practices of biobanks is coupled with the glocalisation of their operations in various country settings. Countries dominant in the field are setting the agenda and financial feasibility of this research model. Establishing global biobanks affords opportunities to partner with institutions whose ethical, regulatory and practical structures may enhance a biobank’s own global competitiveness—but often in ways that potentially undermine or displace national structures. The formation of transnational biobank networks determines how human biodata is deterritorialised with consequences for benefit sharing and custodianship of tissue among other ethico-legal issues. As biobanks circumvent domestic and institutional confines, greater attention must be paid to the moral economy of their operational models and to the ways in which the ethics of biobanks is a spandrel of the collaborative research capacity of nation states, their political, academic and social institutional capacity, and the ability of societies to glocalise the standards, practices, and funding models of biomedical science.