Socialising the Genome

Dr Anna Middleton
Lead Principal Social Scientist
Genetic Counsellor



Cambridge, UK

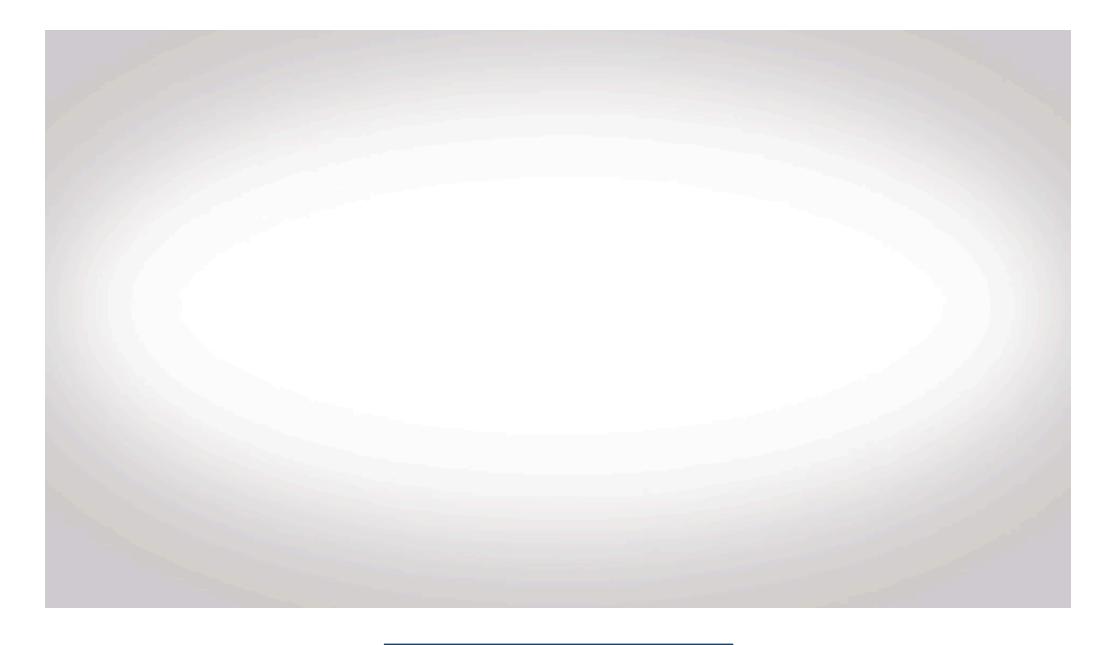




We explored....

How to start a conversation about genomics with people who know nothing about genomics

Gnome

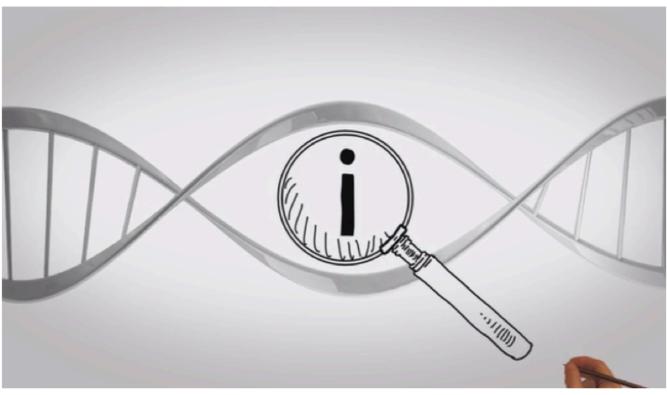








Welcome to genetube - a space dedicated to shaping fresh, informative, surprising and shareable bite sized insights about DNA and genetics. Not for profit; just for humankind.



Thanks for all your help, please feel free to watch again and share the videos.







#DNAZING









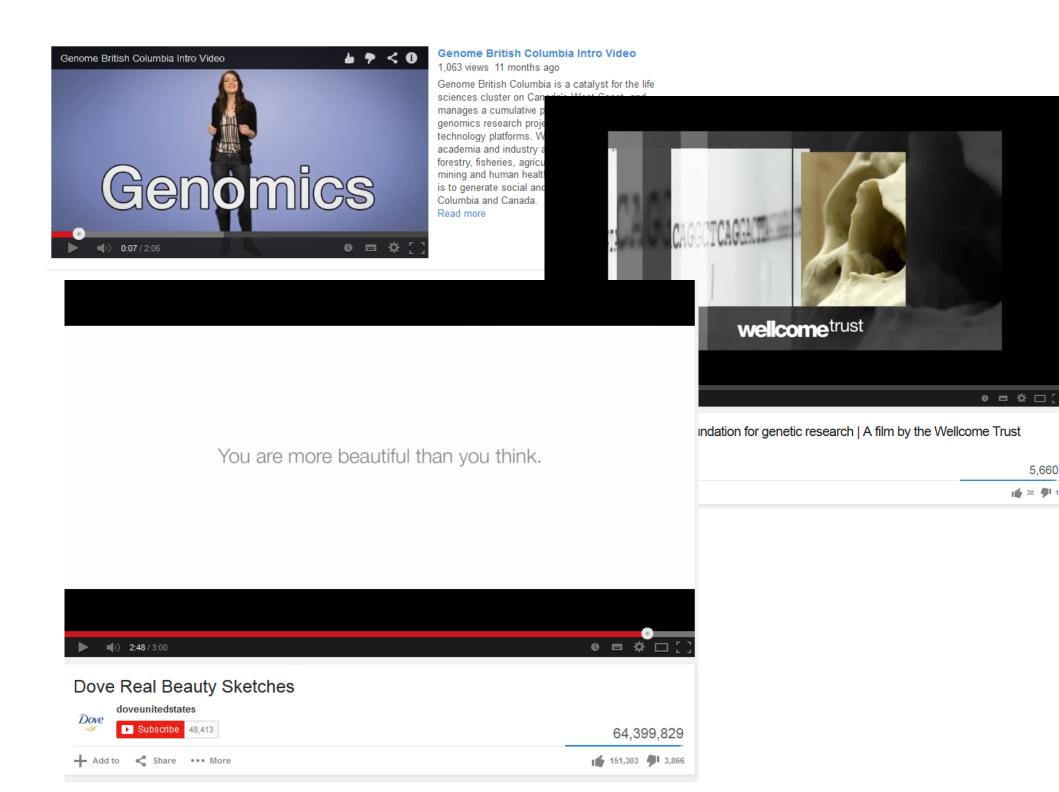
#glitch

#searchme

How to?

Get simple messages out on a large scale?

Know what messages work?



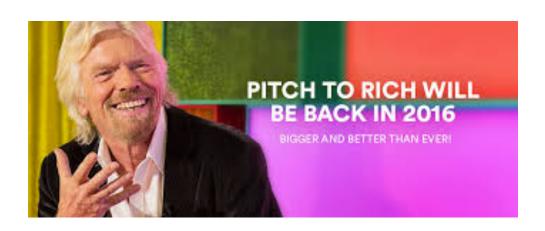
5,660

Advertising Industry









Nestle®



Our aims

To find metaphors that could be used to describe what happens in genomics

To understand natural conversation about genetics and then build on this

To understand what the terms mean to people

To use creative story telling as the focus rather than scientific facts/processes as the focus

Focus Groups (7-10 in each)



Parents (mixed cultures)



'Women's group' – women from the Hertford Women's Guild



'Men's group' - curry club



Young people - choir



Council estate residents

Core Themes

- There is a lot of juggling and weighing up of information— 'risk of disease'
- No idea what 'genome' means; is it to do with gnomes?
- Some want light-hearted approach 'spreading genes around!'
- Insurance and exploitation are a fear

Process

Take Focus
Group themes

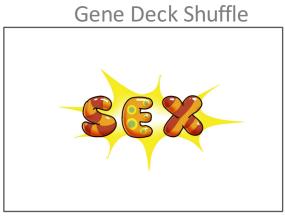
Overlay a narrative onto scientific message

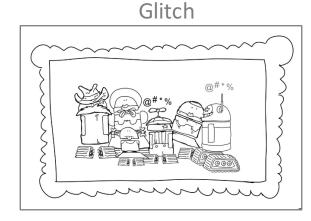
Create 6 animations

Evaluate what works

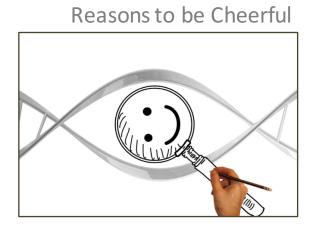
The six films that were researched

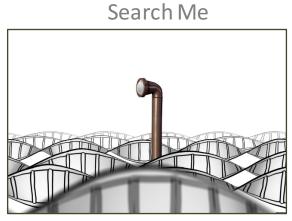






Gnome









Gene Deck Shuffle

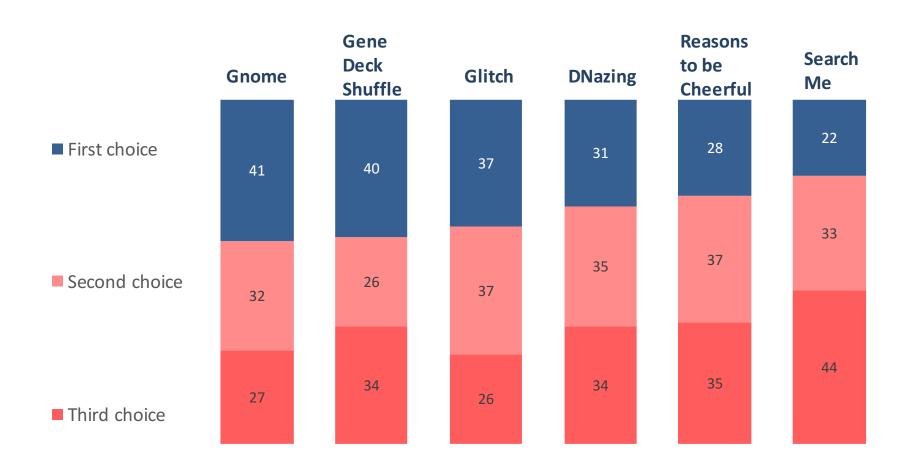


Feedback

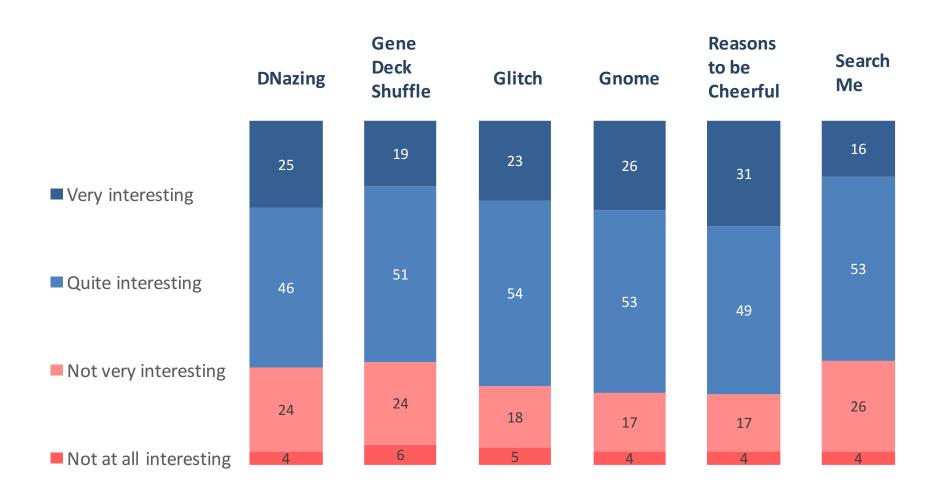
 500 representative British public – data presented

Web based survey being collated now

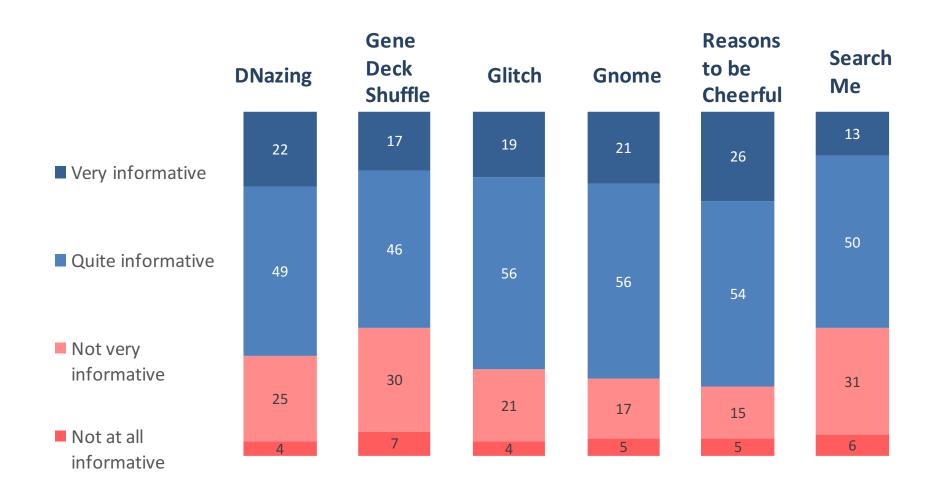
Put films in order of preference



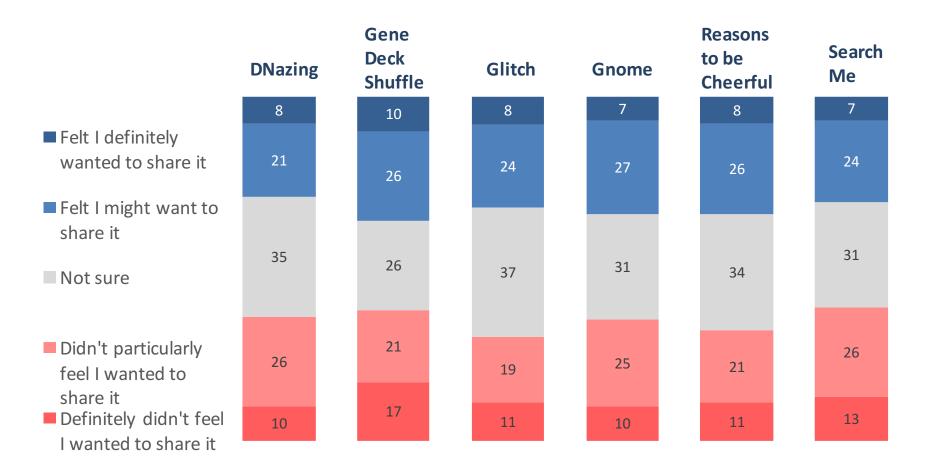
The majority of respondents found the films interesting



The majority of respondents found the films to be informative



Sharability (e.g. via talking to someone about it, or via social media)



Summary

 Have found some new, evidence based ways of reaching the public with genomics

Quirky works ('gnome', 'glitch', sex, etc)

 If genomics is going to be mainstreamed then the conversations around it need to be mainstreamed too

Acknowledgements

Steering Group

- Julian Borra
- Vivienne Parry
- Kat Nevin-Ridley
- Amy Sanders
- Julian Rayner

Fabrika team

- Steven Hess
- Toni Biočić
- Igor Savic

Research Now

John Madell

Funding





