

# Human Rights and DNA: Large Scale Identification of the Missing



**Thomas Parsons, PhD**  
International Commission on Missing Persons

Thursday, Oct 22, 2015, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Michelle Winn Conf. Room (47-215)  
Carmichael Bldg, Duke University  
300 N. Duke St., Durham, NC

As Director of ICMP's Forensic Science Department, Dr. Thomas Parsons supervises the identification of missing individuals applying forensic archaeology, anthropology, pathology, and high-throughput DNA analysis. These processes are integrated in a "DNA-led" approach to mass identification, involving large scale comparison of profiles from families of the missing to profiles recovered from skeletal remains, that has been instrumental in the identification of over 20,000 individuals. The ICMP's original focus was on mass graves from the former Yugoslavia, but also has worked in victim identification from the 2004 Asian tsunami, hurricane Katrina, aircraft incidents, the Philippine Typhoon Frank, and has assisted the governments of South Africa, Chile, Cyprus, Iraq, Libya and Colombia in their search for missing persons from human rights violations. The ICMP is an International Organization solely dedicated to global missing persons issues at the technical, legal, societal, policy, and cooperation levels.

Dr. Parsons, was awarded the 2015 Scientific Prize by the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG), only the tenth person since 1987 to receive the award for outstanding scientific work in the field of forensic genetics.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1Mpp91v> for map and parking details

The Science, Ethics, Identity and Human Rights (SEIHR) is a Duke-NCSU Kenan Creative Collaboratory that synergizes scholars, researchers and students in the sciences and humanities to examine ethically sound processes for human identification in high-risk populations that maximize the investigative utility and minimize risk of privacy intrusions.

This project is funded by the Kenan Collaboratory Fund through the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University.  
For information about the SEIHR project contact [sara.katsanis@duke.edu](mailto:sara.katsanis@duke.edu) or [safaith@ncsu.edu](mailto:safaith@ncsu.edu)