

Honors Capstone Critique

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My capstone project on “Genetic Genealogy: Reshaping the Future of Crime-solving,” gives a valuable contribution to the innovative field of forensic genetic genealogy and its role in criminal investigations. I took a qualitative research approach, which included conducting three in-depth interviews with two genetic genealogists and one law enforcement agent and reviewing scholarly literature on the subject matter. Some strengths of my project lie in the methodology used, particularly the use of the NVivo program for transcribing audio from the recorded interviews, and the application of grounded theory analysis and AI-assisted technology for coding transcriptions. Some limitations of my study were my small sample size of participants and reliance on self-reported data.

A significant finding was the recognition of forensic genetic genealogy as a critical tool in uncovering personal histories and assisting in criminal investigations. The interviews with genetic genealogists and law enforcement professionals highlighted the effectiveness of genetic genealogy in providing leads and generating new avenues for solving cold cases. These insights underscored the significant impact that forensic genetic genealogy can have on both fields and its potential to revolutionize traditional crime-solving techniques.

Overall, the results of my capstone project provide valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, guiding future efforts to harness the full potential of forensic genetic genealogy in the pursuit of justice. I was thrilled to get the opportunity to delve into this topic and interact with professionals in the field of criminal justice. I hope to see further research on this topic and its evolution in the future.