

GENETICS

READ THIS IF YOU OWN A PORSCHE

2.01.2007

and read it also if you are not so much interested in German cars but in population-based DNA registries.

1. In [1996](#) all 750 Porsche car owner here in Munich were asked for a DNA identity test – the High Court in Karlsruhe later decided, that this approach was adequate. All test results, however, were discarded after that screening as
2. forensic DNA testing (invented in [1985](#) by Sir Jeffreys) is only allowed for severe criminal offense and needs the decision of a judge.
3. Some German authorities now want to change the rules – [allowing DNA testing also in less severe cases](#), without order of a judge and infinite computer storage of DNA profiles. They get support by police investigators who complain about unresolved crimes and by victims that fear repeaters (boosted by the success in the [Moshhammer case](#))
4. A considerable fraction of these DNA profiles has errors – lab errors, chimera, twins...
5. Scientists fear that the acceptance to take part in genetic studies will drop if these profiles can be easily matched to [research data](#) sets.
6. A large part of the population is interested in genetic privacy and do not want their government to store their genetic profiles: Ethnic data have been abused in the past to discriminate and kill people – politics and government may change in the future.

[German BKA](#) seems to have already 3900,000 DNA fingerprints in stock (other European countries store DNA profiles without any consent). Is there any way out? Here is an idea that I had on my morning daily bike trip:

