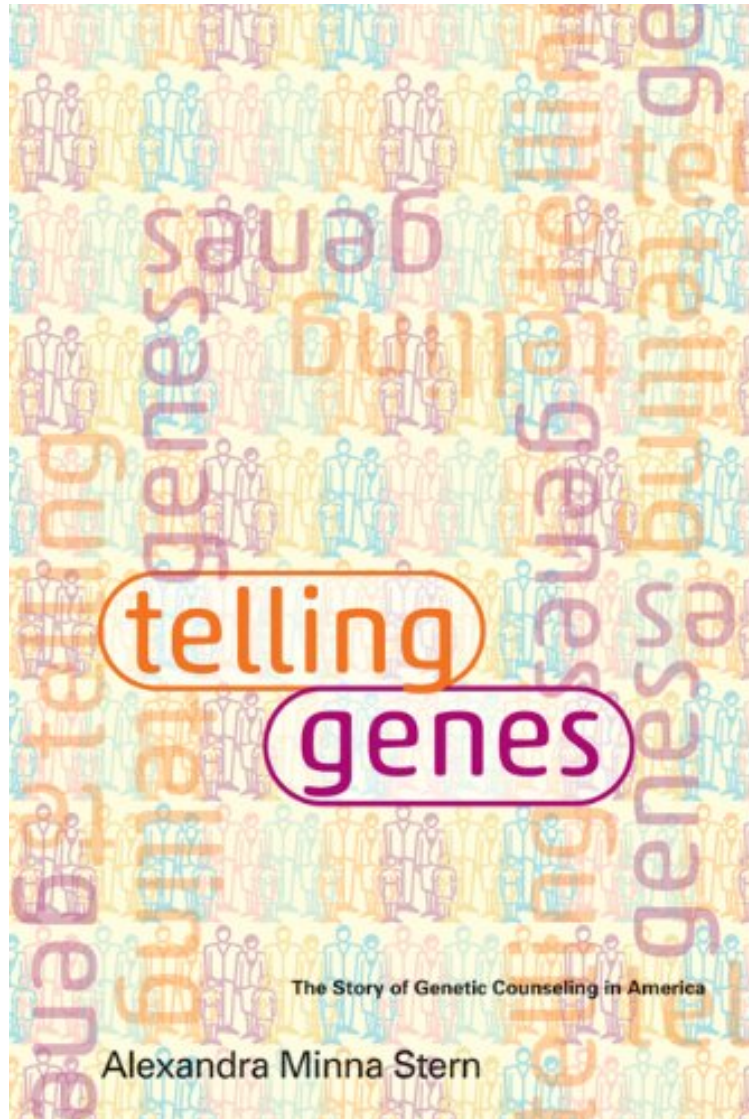


(Download pdf ebook) Telling Genes: The Story of Genetic Counseling in America

# Telling Genes: The Story of Genetic Counseling in America

Alexandra Minna Stern

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**Alexandra Minna Stern : Telling Genes: The Story of Genetic Counseling in America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Telling Genes: The Story of Genetic Counseling in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive view of the profession By Eric A. English Not a linear story of the genetic counseling profession, this book details the key players, some of the training programs, and social implications of a young and largely misunderstood career. This book is a great primer for other profession-related books on genetic ethics, but it did focus quite a bit on what genetic counseling was (and no longer is) and little

on what it could be. The author writes as a historian and the book is not a blanket PR piece for a profession in need of interested trainees. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Solana Cortez Gives an close look at the history of Genetic Counseling.

For sixty years genetic counselors have served as the messengers of important information about the risks, realities, and perceptions of genetic conditions. More than 2,500 certified genetic counselors in the United States work in clinics, community and teaching hospitals, public health departments, private biotech companies, and universities. *Telling Genes* considers the purpose of genetic counseling for twenty-first century families and society and places the field into its historical context. Genetic counselors educate physicians, scientific researchers, and prospective parents about the role of genetics in inherited disease. They are responsible for reliably translating test results and technical data for a diverse clientele, using scientific acumen and human empathy to help people make informed decisions about genomic medicine. Alexandra Minna Stern traces the development of genetic counseling from the eugenics movement of the early twentieth century to the current era of human genomics. Drawing from archival records, patient files, and oral histories, Stern presents the fascinating story of the growth of genetic counseling practices, principles, and professionals.

"Stern's beautifully nuanced analysis illuminates the legacies and challenges of a profession on the front lines of genomic medicine. This groundbreaking book respects the voices of practitioners, clients, and critics alike and is essential reading for anyone with a problematic genetic inheritance which is all of us." (Alice Wexler, author of *The Woman Who Walked into the Sea: Huntington's and the Making of a Genetic Disease*) "The best and most complete exploration of the history of genetic counseling to date. Stern's masterful account includes a lucid analysis of incendiary debates involving race, disability, and abortion that have surrounded the field of genetic counseling and deftly navigates the troubled historical waters between genetics and eugenics." (Paul A. Lombardo, author of *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court, and Buck v. Bell*) "Alexandra Stern has written a rich and thorough history of the development of genetic counseling as a profession. It will be widely received as a definitive work that captures and explains some of the inherent tensions in the role of the genetic counselor, with a critical but engagingly sympathetic analysis." (Troy Duster, Chancellors Professor and Senior Fellow, Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, University of California, Berkeley) "Any collection strong in genetic health will find this a winner." (Midwest Book ) "This book is an example of the best that history of science has to offer. Well written and exhaustively referenced, the work should be required reading for all students and faculty interested in modern medicine." (Choice) "A fascinating study of the development of the concept and practice of genetic counseling in the United States since the early years of the twentieth century... *Telling Genes* is a very important contribution to the history of medical genetics and its clinical applications in the twentieth century." (Garland E. Allen *Journal of American History*) "In this well written and important book, Stern addresses the history of genetic counseling, a profession that has undergone drastic changes during its short history, while still remaining under the shadow of eugenics'." (Andrew J. Hogan *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*) "Stern has once again demonstrated her uncommon ability to present complex information in an accessible form." (Leslie Baker *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*) "Genetic counselors likely all learn something about the history of our profession during graduate school. For those desiring to know more about our profession's origins and swift evolution, we now have *Telling Genes*... *Telling Genes* will appeal to more than just the history fanatics in our profession and is a perfect supplementary text for genetic counseling students." (Meredith Sanders *NSGC Perspectives*) "A worthy standard by which other historical writing and claims about the field and practice of genetic counseling can be read." (Stephen Pemberton *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*) " *Telling Genes* is an informative read for anyone interested in learning about the historical origins and growth of genetic counseling, the profession's important contributions to American medical care, and the ethical dilemmas that it must confront in the future." (LSF Magazine) "Stern's impressively researched history of genetics practices in the United States... exposes the multifarious ways in which these practices have incorporated and promoted societal values." (Barry Hoffmaster *Hastings Center Report*) "In this very readable exploration of the origins of genetic counseling, Alexandra Minna Stern makes an important contribution both to our understanding of the history of American medicine and also to the histories of eugenics and medical genetics. Using an accessible narrative style, Stern knits together archival materials, oral histories with key figures, medical publications, and photographs." (Rachel A. Ankeny Isis) From the Back Cover Alexandra Minna Stern traces the development of genetic counseling from the eugenics movement of the early twentieth century to the current era of human genomics. Drawing from archival records, patient files, and oral histories, Stern presents the fascinating story of the growth of genetic counseling practices, principles, and professionals. "The best and most complete exploration of the history of genetic counseling to date. Stern's masterful account includes a lucid analysis of incendiary debates involving race, disability, and abortion that have surrounded the field of genetic counseling and deftly navigates the troubled historical waters between genetics and eugenics." Paul A. Lombardo, author of *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court and Buck v. Bell* "Stern's beautifully nuanced analysis illuminates the legacies

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