



## Is Forensic Science an Oxymoron?

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Forensic science evidence (e.g., fingerprints, DNA, microscopic hair, & bite marks) is widely believed to provide powerful proof of identity in both criminal and civil trials. But in recent years, forensic scientists in some areas have been taken to task for overclaiming, failing to test their assumptions, and neglecting to explain to judges and jurors how the risk of error affects the value of reported matches. Complicating matters, empirical research suggests that jurors have some misconceptions about forensic science evidence and misunderstand the meaning of the statistics they hear in cases involving DNA evidence. Solutions will be explored.

**Monday, December 7th at 12:15 p.m.**

**Heroy Hall 153**

*This event is free and open to the public.*

Lunch will be provided.

Please R.S.V.P. at [lawandstatistics.eventbrite.com](http://lawandstatistics.eventbrite.com) or 214-768-3527.

**About the Speaker:** Professor Koehler has a Ph.D. in behavioral sciences from the University of Chicago. Prior to coming to Northwestern, he was a University Distinguished Teaching Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, and a Professor in the law and business schools at Arizona State University. He conducts research on how jurors react to forensic science and statistical evidence. He has published papers in such outlets as *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Jurimetrics*, *Law and Human Behavior*, *Management Science*, *Psychological Science*, *Science*, *Wiley Encyclopedia of Forensic Science*, and various law reviews. He is currently an editor of *Law, Probability & Risk*, and a consulting editor of *Judgment and Decision Making*.



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