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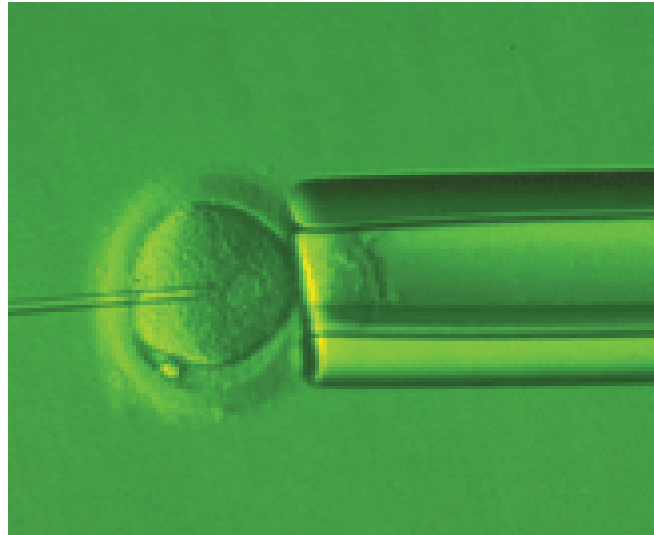
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Sydney Bioethics Seminar Series

Uncomfortable Choices: Prenatal Testing, Preimplantation Diagnosis, and Disability

Jackie Leach Scully

Institut für Geschichte und Epistemologie der Medizin, Basel, Switzerland



5.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Wednesday, 22 February 2006
Carlaw 275, University of Sydney

Auslan translation will be provided.

Followed by Refreshments
Free—Open to the Public—No RSVP Required

For more information about this and other events of the series visit:
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/bioethics/news/index.shtml>

Convened by:

Australian Health Policy Institute (AHPi)
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Speaker:
Jackie Leach Scully

Title:
Uncomfortable Choices:
Prenatal Testing, Preimplantation Diagnosis, and Disability

Abstract: The ability to identify genetic conditions prenatally is probably the most contentious feature of the new biomedical and reproductive technologies. On one side, these technologies are often presented as surefire routes to reducing human suffering caused by disability; on the other, they have been criticised by some disability activists as at best discriminatory and at worst eugenic. To complicate matters even further, the possibility that some people will use reproductive technologies to select *for* rather than *against* genetic disability has been widely discussed. In this talk I outline some of the arguments that have been used, consider what relation they bear to the reality of medicine and of disabled people's lives, and suggest that, even if agreement between both (or all) sides cannot be reached, there may nevertheless be agreement on the criteria for making these uncomfortable choices.

Jackie Leach Scully teaches and researches in the Unit for Ethics in the Biosciences at the University of Basel in Switzerland. Originally a molecular geneticist, she spent some years in medical research before further study in bioethics, and most recently in psychoanalysis and sociology. Her research interests are broadly to do with how different constituencies, especially marginalised social groups, make moral evaluations of novel scientific and medical issues. Specific areas of interest are embodiment and disability; feminist bioethics; social impact of new technologies; media representations of ethical issues; and religious understandings. She has been involved with disability activism for more than 20 years, and she is currently working on a book about ethics and disability. Recent or forthcoming publications include "Admitting all variations? Postmodernism and genetic normality" (in *Ethics of the Body: Postconventional Challenges*, R Mykitiuk and M Shildrick (eds), MIT Press, 2005); "Chance, choice and control: Lay debate on prenatal social sex selection" (*Social Science and Medicine*); and "Creating donors: the 2005 Swiss law on donation of 'spare' embryos to hESC research" (*International Journal of Ethics*). She is the author of *Quaker Approaches to Moral Issues in Genetics*, and co-editor of *Gekauftes Gewissen? Die Rolle der Bioethik in Institutionen* and of *An Ocean of Darkness, An Ocean of Light: Quaker Views on Good and Evil*. From December 2005 to March 2006 she is a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University, and at the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine, University of Sydney.

The **Sydney Bioethics Seminar Series** is convened by The Australian Health Policy Institute (AHPI); the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine (VELIM); and the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science (HPS); with support from The Centre for Human Aspects of Science and Technology (CHAST), the Faculty of Medicine, and the Research Institute for Humanities and Social Science (RIHSS). For more information see: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/bioethics/news/index.shtml>.

For information about the new postgraduate **Sydney Bioethics Program**, see: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/bioethics>.