

Call For Papers -- Feminism and Legal Theory Workshop
Emory University School of Law
January 27-28, 2006

Genetic Manipulation and Enhancement Technologies

Genetic testing of embryos and fetuses is possible for not only genetic “disease”, but for a range of genetic characteristics and traits. With the development of genetic testing capabilities for more than just “disease”, there is a fear that genetic technologies will go beyond therapeutic purposes, and instead be used to “improve” human traits that would be within the range of what is commonly regarded as normal. In this workshop we will provide an opportunity to investigate the prospect of genetic manipulation and enhancement technologies.

Questions to be explored may include:

- whether the therapy/enhancement distinction with respect to genetic testing is sustainable
- how should we regulate in this area and what does regulation reveal about the legal management of disabled bodies
- how do existing laws and legal institutions shape and limit decision-making in the context of an ever increasing set of reproductive choices
- what is the role for law in regulating reproductive decision-making given that ideas about disability and normality are driven by the socio-political, economic and legal context
- how far beyond good health should we go in our attempt to improve the human body and its functioning
- what are the implications of attempts to standardize humans
- what constitutes “normal”

We are also interested in the appropriateness of regulating seemingly deviant reproductive practices, such as cloning, the creation of hybrids, and chimeras. Can we view the prohibition of cloning, chimeras, and hybrids as distinct from regulation of reproduction that produces anomalous bodies, transgressive family forms or disabled children? Or, is a better comparison between prohibition of cloning, hybrids, and chimeras and transgressive reproductive practices such as preimplantation genetic diagnosis for sex selection, or for traits such as height, eye color, intelligence etc?

Deadline for Submissions:

Paper proposals are due October 31, 2005. Please address proposals and inquiries to:

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Working drafts of papers to be duplicated and distributed prior to the Workshop will be due January 6th 2006.